

SCHOOLS Monson students return to school

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GET IN THE SPIRIT Halloween decor on display Page 9



SPORTS JLS team wins title

Page 11

SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

The Journal Register

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SUPPORT COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

Final free week for The Journal Register Dear Reader:

second and final complimentary issue of *The Journal Register*. We hope you enjoy it.

We have enclosed a remit-We are pleased to provide this tance form with today's paper, which may be used to beat the increase and subscribe now or

The forms are provided for your convenience, but do not mean your current subscription has expired. Thanks for taking time to

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Hull defends

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COIVD-19.

MONSON — Several

Mary Hull

fend her decision not to wear

The bottom line: She's

The subject of Hull's

choice to go mask-less at a ral-

ly came up after a letter sent

to the board was introduced.

The letter, written by residents

Keith Valley and Karen Valley

and dated Oct. 1, asserted that

the town, and Hull, as both an

elected official and a health

official, were putting the pub-

lic at risk by not following

state and federal guidelines

meant to curb the spread of

"It seems the Town of Mon-

HULL | page 2

The letter said in part,

a mask at a public event.

Sincerely, Patrick Turley, Publisher

TRANSPORTATION

Palmer still on-track for a new east-west rail station

By Michael Harrison mharrison@turley.com

PALMER — The revival of a local passenger train station is still

a reality. A draft report of the Mass. DOT East-West Passenger Rail Study released to the public Tuesday shows the final alternatives under consideration, including a depot in Palmer that would be a stop along the way from Boston to Pittsfield.

The draft study is now available at mass.gov/east-west-passenger-rail-study. A videoconference via Zoom is scheduled for Oct 22, 6 to 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Specifics on how to attend is on the Mass. DOT website.

"None of the alternatives achieves all identified objectives,' the study states. "Each contains a set of positive and negative attributes that must be considered to

make an informed decision on the overall benefits provided by the alternative." Sen. Anne Gobi, one of several local advocates for a Palmer stop on the proposed new rail line, said she needs more time to evaluate the study, but an initial look at it gave her some concerns."Based on my precursory look at the draft, DOT needs to continue to work with and listen to the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the ridership numbers still appear too low," Gobi said.

"My concern is that the DOT has a plan in mind and trying to steer the conversation towards that I will look more in depth at the draft and will be submitting comments."

RAIL | page 5

Courtesy photo A screenshot of one of the MassDOT maps showing a potential east-west rail line with a station in Palmer.



COMMUNITY



Turley Publications file photo:

Monson Free Library, located on 2 High St, Monson.

Monson library re-opens for in-person use

By Jonah Snowden jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON - The Monson Free Library started allowing patrons to come inside starting Oct. 21. It was the first in-person use allowed since the COVID-19 shut-

Librarian Hope Bodwell said the library is allowing 20-minute appointments noon-5 p.m. on Wednesdays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. It is also continuing to provide curbside pickups on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursdays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Patrons need to order their books and schedule their pickup-time.

Sate and federal guidelines



aimed at curbing the spread of coronavirus must be observed for in-person library use.

"If you have an appointment you must wear a mask, no exceptions," Bodwell said.

"If for any reason you choose not to wear a mask, you can still take advantage of our curbside pick-up service," she said.

"A hand sanitizer station is positioned at the desk when you walk into the building. We ask that everyone that enters uses the sanitizer so they can browse or use the computers with clean hands. If you are not computer savvy, we ask that you bring someone close to you that can sit with you and help. Staff cannot sit at the com-

puters with you at this time." Youth Services Librarian Sandra Courtney continues to provide "Take and Make Kits" for their younger patrons and will

LIBRARY | page 3

MONSON

Maskless town official chided during public meeting



Turley Publications screenshots

Monson Board of Selectmen member Mary Hull discusses criticism she's received for not wearing a mask at a recent event held outside the town

By Michael Harrison mharrison@turley.com

MONSON — A member of the town's Board of Selectmen who also works in the health department, was called out during a public meeting last week for not wearing a mask while part of a crowd at a recent public rally.

Three residents who spoke during the selectmen meeting that was streamed live Oct. 13 chided Mary Hull, who was seen participating in the rally in front of the town building several weeks earlier.

Hull, who also was accused by residents of not observing social distancing rules at the event, countered that wearing a mask during the COVIC-19 pandemic by a letter from Karen Valley, who, was "a personal choice."

It was disputed whether or not the rally was political in nature or intended to be a non-partisan event intended to celebrate America.

Two other residents who attended the rally also spoke during the meeting and defended Hull's decision.

Board Chairman Dr. Richard Smith, in answer to a question, said at one point that wearing a mask in public is a mandate handed down by Gov. Charlie Baker in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus, which causes the disease. At press time, there were 8.12 million confirmed cases of coronavirus in the U.S. and nearly 221,000 deaths attributed to the disease.

The conversation was sparked

MASKLESS | page 2

COMMUNITY

Halloween on for most local towns; In Holland, it's on-ish

By Jonah Snowden jsnowden@turley.com

LOCAL AREA - Halloween season is among us, but the No. 1 question is will residents have the chance to celebrate it?

The answer is, mostly yes, though modified compared to past years when there was not a pandemic to navigate through.

In the Town of Holland, Chief of Police Bryan C. Haughey said through a document emailed to the Journal Register that the annual Trunk or Treat hosted by the Holland Elementary School's P.T.O. will not be held. He also stated that that since "The Town of Holland does not maintain the authority by local ordinance or stature to regulate any holiday, including Halloween," any Halloween activities must be subject to public health orders.

That appeared to imply tacit consent for trick-or-treating at residents' discretion as long as social distancing and mask wearing is observed according to the mandate by Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker and federal recommendations.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the rising number of cases in the area the past few weeks, it seemed that the national tradition would be cancelled in local towns. This is not the case, despite an increase in cases in most local towns. Wales is the only town with no new

Halloween will take place, with a few restrictions. As previously reported, Palmer, Wales, Brimfield and Monson are all allowing trickor-treating during certain hours. In Palmer, Town Manager Ryan McNutt said last week that even though some traditional events, like the costume parade, have been cancelled, "It's going to work the way it's worked every Oct. 31."

McNutt added, "They (residents) are going to be safe. They've been lectured all year long on what to do. They know how they're going to do it safely and they're very appreciative of the ability to make that personal choice."

In Wales, Pamela Leduc, executive secretary for the Board of Selectmen, said the town sent out a postcard detailing guidelines for Halloween.

They have CDC guidelines on there, best practices, suggestions," Leduc said.

COVID-19 update

As of Oct. 14, when the most recent number of cases were posted to the MassGov online Dashboard,

HALLOWEEN | page 5



Todd is committed to our communities.

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Ways and Means, he has helped to lead the effort to increase local aid and education funding in the state budget. Todd is a champion for our seniors, veterans and sportsmen and works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a better place for our children and our families.



PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Disposing of leaves? Here's when you can

Fall (updated) Compost leaf schedule off of Old Warren Rd. Palmer

DATES TIME Saturday, Oct 24 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Oct 25 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday Oct 31 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov 1 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov 7 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov 8 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov 14 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov 15 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov 21 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov 22 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov 28 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov 29 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Town of Palmer **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS** 1015 Bridge Street, Palmer, MA 01069 (413) 283 2615

Early voting, polling place change in Monson

The voting location in Monson has changed for the Nov. 3 General Election only: Voting will take place at Quarry Hill School-43. Use the Margaret St. Pool entrance.

Early voting will take place Oct. 24-30 in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Town Office Building at 110 Main Street during the following times:

8 a.m.-noon Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 24-25 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 26 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 27 and Oct. 30.

Questions? Contact the Monson Town Clerk's office at 413-267-4115 or townclerk@monson-ma. gov.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

For more information, or to submit people or milestone news for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.

TURLEY PUBLICATION -

New members needed to revive town's ag commission in Monson

By Michael Harrison mharrison@turley.com

MONSON — The town is looking for a few good farmers.

With an eye toward finding ways to help existing farmers and encourage others interested in commercial farming and agritourism, Monson plans to re-start its dormant Agriculture Commission. Town Administrator Evan Brassard said at last week's Board of Selectmen meeting that an active commission is important not just for regulating and assisting local farms, but also to protect "that rural agricultural charm" the helps make Monson special.

Agritourism has become a driver of the economy across the U.S., including in Western Massachusetts since the early 2000s, with revenue tripling over the span of nearly two decades. Some entrepreneurial farmers who may abandon a particular crop that has become less profitable turn their land into a tourist destination and that often causes a ripple effect among motels, restaurants, and other small businesses in the area.

One way local governments help is by balancing farmers' needs with other communities and making sure agricultural and residential zoning laws don't clash.

"This is a right-to-farm community, which in the most basic of terms means that if you meet the criteria of agriculture under the Mass. state guidelines, and you have more than five acres of land and you make money off of that property, as far as agriculture goes, then the town exempts you from a lot of the provisions that affect smaller properties," Brassard explained at the meeting.

"And that is designed so that a developer can't come in and build 30 houses next to a dairy farm and then run the dairy farmer out because it smells."

The role of the Agriculture Commission varies. It can serve as an advocate for farmers but also act as referee to settle conflicts between farmers and non-farming neighbors.



Turley Publications photo by Michael Harriso

Children feed goats at Westview Farms Creamery, which is one of several local agritourism businesses.

"They can look at agricultural issues and bylaws the town has that hurts the local farmer, things that the town can do to help the local farmer," Brassard said. "They also hear disputes that have to do with farming. And I'm not talking about like hobby farming. So, if you have three acres and 10 chickens, that still goes to the zoning commission."

Conversely, "if you live next to a dairy farm and their cows are getting out constantly on your property, then that would be an ag commission thing."

Brassard said an active commission would "also get involved in other activities and they can bring back best practices to the Town of Monson so that we can try to keep the farms that we have here alive and working."

Earlier this week, Brassard told the Journal Register that the town is aware of at least a dozen farms and agribusinesses and that one of the benefits of reviv-

ing the commission would be having a more exact accounting. Local farms, including agritourism business such as Westview Hills Creamery and Echo Hill Orchards and Winery, produce dairy, beef, poultry, hay, corn, and pumpkins.

"Their primary income is not the crop that they sell," Brassard said during the meeting. "They take the crop that they grow and then turn it into something else to build an experience around it. And so, how do we navigate those issues as well and make those opportunities better for here?"

Another example of a new agritourism business the town could encourage to open here is an outdoor wedding venue for those who want to offer guests a farm-flavored experience.

That's something for which an ag commission could play an important role.

"One of the challenges Monson faces is we have very narrow

zoning interpretations that make it challenging to do things like farm weddings because they are located in rural/residential districts," Brassard told the Journal Register.

"It makes it challenging to shoehorn into existing bylaws and zoning exceptions, so we have to see if there are ways to tweak bylaws or zoning to make it more friendly to agritourism."

The commission would have seven slots and Brassard said he's already heard from seven people interested in serving. The town is going to post in invitation to prospective commissioners on its website and Facebook page as early as this week. Depending on the response, a prospective new commission could be approved at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Anyone who has an interest can email Brassard at ebrassard@ monson-ma.gov or call him at 413-267-4100.

Palmer Early voting this weekend

Early Voting will take place at The Palmer Town Hall 4417 Main St. 8 a.m.-noon Saturday-Sunday Oct. 24-25. If you have any questions about voter registration, call the office at 283-2608.

Regular voting will take place 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 3 at the usual polling locations

visit us at journalregister. turley.com



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The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays.

We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Taxes due this week and Nov. 2

PALMER – The Town of Palmer Tax Collector would like to remind all taxpayers of the following: Sewer tax bills for the first half of fiscal year 2021 are due by Oct. 26. Real estate and personal property taxes for the second quarter of fiscal year

2021 need to be paid by Nov. 2. At this time, the collector's office is closed to the public. Payments by check or money order may be put in the silver lockbox located on the east side of the town's administrative building or by mail with the envelope provided with the bill. Credit and debit card payments can be made on the town website at townofpalmer.com.

No telephone payments can be accepted. Credit cards accepted are Master Card, VISA, Discover and American Express.

There is a sliding scale fee for each bill paid which is passed on to the taxpayer. The fee structure can be viewed on the town's website. For questions and more information, call the collector's office at 413-283-2601.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.



Brimfield Library ramps up programming – some in-person

By Jonah Snowden jsnowden@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — Like other libraries, the Brimfield Public Library is continuing to offer services and programs to the public, despite the challenges of social distancing in the age of COVID-19.

Director Rebecca Wells said the library is currently offering curbside pickup opportunities to the community. The hours of operation are Monday (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), Tuesday (2 p.m. to 6 p.m.), Wednesday (10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday (2 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

"Patrons call 413-245-3518 or email us at brimfieldlibraryrequests@gmai.com to reserve items," Wells said.

To borrow books, patrons must include their name, phone number, the title and author of the book they are requesting. When the book or books are ready, a librarian will contact the patron to schedule a pickup/delivery window.

As stated on the library's website, due to reduced staffing, it may take up to three days for a pickup/delivery to be scheduled. Also, all curbside pickups will be contact-free and scheduled at different times to minimize a potential patron overlap.

Upcoming programs:

Upcoming programs include an art class for adults on Zoom on Oct. 28, monthly DIY (do-ityourself) children crafts, a pumpkin decorating contest on Oct. 24, a cosponsored social justice book club with the Congregational Church of Brimfield and more.

To bring the Halloween spirit to Brimfield a week early, the library will be cosponsoring a story walk with the Family Foundations 5 on Saturday, Oct. 24. So long as the weather permits, families will have an opportunity to read different pages of "The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything," by Linda Williams – outdoors and socially distanced.

Registration is required for this event. Anyone interested in attending the event can send an email to union61cfe@tantasqua. org and reserve a time to attend the story walk.

Organizers for some of the nutrition.

'Since switching to virtual classes, kids can cook for their families in their own homes,"

Virtual and in-person

upcoming programs have shown as much excitement as Wells. Katie Shepherd, owner of Food Explorers, said she will be teaching children about cooking and



The Brimfield Public Library, located on 25 Main St., Brimfield.

Shepherd said. "As instructors and dietitians, it's extremely rewarding to see children learn new techniques, try new foods, and impress their families."

Wells is happy to have the opportunity to continue serving the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Given the sudden closure of the library in March and the uncertainty of the pandemic even still, it brings a sense of normalcy to the town, staff and patrons alike that we can provide curbside service to the community," she said.

"There is nothing better than hearing a familiar voice when we pick up the phone, seeing a longtime patron walking up the front walk, waving through the window or having one of our youngest patron's pen pal us with hand drawn pictures enclosed. Despite things being different right now, the relationships we have with our patrons remain at the heart of what we do."

To learn more about the library, the upcoming events and more, visit brimfieldpubliclibrary.com or its Facebook page.

LIBRARY I from page 1

be available for a curbside pickup. She also provides story times streamed on the library's Facebook every Wednesday morning.

Next month, Courtney said, they also have stress relief activities for their tweens and teens. Activities include grab and go kits and more.

Each one of these kits includes the materials and the direction, and also includes reading compliments for whatever the activity or project is," Courtney said. "My team will have books on stress related, mental health, or maybe something else, you know, to get them off the

Bodwell said the situation may not be ideal, but the library is doing the best it can under difficult circumstances.

"We're really, fortunate to provide virtual events and curbside services," she

"But we do understand we're not reaching everyone, so we're very happy to start opening the building up. We're very grateful for everyone whose taken advantage. We do know there is a digital divide and not everyone has access, so it's important that we get the building

She also said the library patio is open when the weather permits.

> Courtesy photo **Youth Services Librarian Sandra** Courtney, Library Technician Diane Vacon and Library Director Hope Bodwell.



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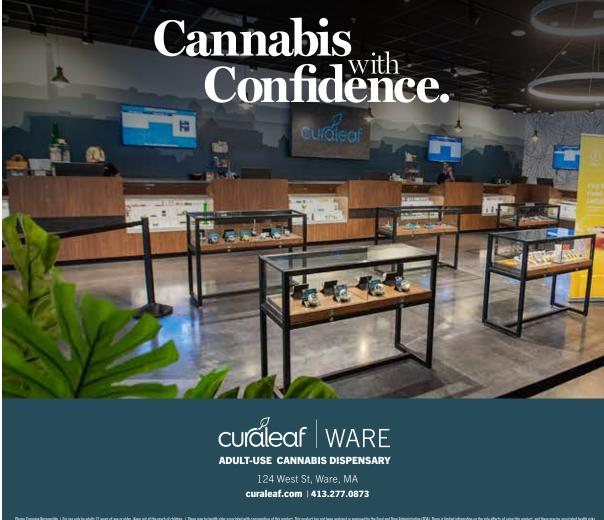
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Viewpoints

Guest opinion

Fears Dollar General would create more wrecks

By Carolyn H. Horacek

This is an open letter to the members of the Monson Planning Board:

Hardly a week goes by that people don't say to me how dangerous this part of Main St. is. I know firsthand about several accidents and near accidents here from living at 98 Main St., and I have heard about others. For example, a car was totaled in an accident just several weeks ago, almost right in front of our house; a pedestrian was hit by a car right in front of 96 Main St. while crossing the street less than 2 years ago; our tenant's daughter's car was hit and totaled coming out of our driveway; and, let's not forget Marie Keeley's death when she was struck by a car while crossing the street in front of our house 17 years ago.

When road safety was initially brought up during this application process we were told that they went back 3 years without finding any problems with this location. That is simply not accurate as outlined above. The most egregious one that resulted in the death of Marie Keeley was 17 years ago, but does that make it less significant to her or anyone? Whether it was yesterday or 17 years ago, her death should not be forgotten. The 3 year lookback means nothing.

The thing that all these accidents have in common is that they all occurred on Academy Hill, all at or very nearby 96 Main St. And that is with the present conditions. What would be the additional effect of increased traffic and the entering/exiting of cars and delivery trucks from the proposed Dollar General driveway? There would be significantly more in/out traffic with this store than at any time when the old Academy gyms were there.

Living on this part of Main St. we are constantly aware of traffic. Every few minutes we hear an 18 wheeler speed down Academy Hill. And every time one of those big trucks comes barreling down I worry "Is this going to end up badly"? We also often hear police sirens as they chase down speeding vehicles. Vehicles often do speed here regardless of the speed limit.

According to Wilson, Keohe, & Winingham LLC, a typical passenger vehicle can take up to 316 feet to come to a complete stop after recognizing the need to stop. A fully loaded semi truck can take up to 525 feet. These distances are on flat land not on a hill. And in adverse weather conditions it can easily take a 25% longer dis-

Every time I round the corner at the top of the hill I wonder what would happen if I suddenly came upon a car or a line of cars entering or exiting the 96 Main St. property and all of a sudden I had to stop quickly. All they talk about is "line of sight" and how this is legally okay. Well, it simply won't help in this instance. People just aren't prepared to stop quickly at this part of Main St. You are coming around a blind corner heading South, picking up speed going down a hill, and all of a sudden out of the blue a line of cars are dead stopped right in your lane waiting to turn in a place that you don't expect. We know first hand from living next door on this hill how dangerous it is. I pray every time I put on my blinker to turn into my driveway that the cars and trucks behind me are paying enough attention to stop or pull around me to continue down Main St. It's a similar situation just one address further up Main St at 96 Main, but worse since it is right at that sharp corner.

If you live where we live on Academy Hill this is a reality. And this is what I am trying to convey to others. This is a very dangerous section of road and to add any commercial traffic at exactly the wrong place is a disaster waiting to happen.

I would not like to see a lawsuit directed at the town to prevent a known and documented safety hazard to be built at this location. And worse than that can you imagine if someone was killed and we would all have to live with that thought? It has already happened before with

As vehemently opposed to this proposed project as I am for a variety of reasons, the more I hear from other people about safety considerations I'm even more concerned. If the neighborhood property values plummet, if our living conditions are ruined, it doesn't come close to what would happen if there were to be another fatal or even near fatal accident in this location.

We have just rented an apartment in our house and were swamped with applicants saying how there aren't enough housing units in downtown Monson. Regardless of what the zoning says, this is a residential neighborhood (the west side of the road is still zoned residential!) and the best fit for 96 Main St. is housing. To be within walking distance to just about everything you need is a major plus, and it would be very beneficial to a lot of people.

I hesitated about sending another letter, but it is better to talk about these concerns now when we can do something about it than have the town and townspeople regret it later. I am strongly urging the members of the Monson Planning Board to deny this application. It is not worth the potential safety hazards and risks to the town.

> Carolyn H. Horacek is a resident of Monson.



Two timely questions for the Garden Lady

year. I can't wait to carve them into Jack O' Lanterns with the kids! Is it possible to save the seeds and plant them next

year? I'd love to end up with the same pumpkin variety again."

I am in the same boat, Mary! I love the pumpkins my kids chose this year and will be attempting to save the seeds myself. I think it is definitely worth the chance, but first let's give you a lesson in genetics. Pumpkins belong to the genus Cucurbita. Cucurbita pepo is the easiest to figure out. Its members are what you

might think of as a traditional pumpkin grown in the northeastern part of the country: orange with a woody stem and a hard outer skin. Teeny 'Jack-Be-Little' as well as the heirloom 'Connecticut Field' and sweet 'New England Pie' all belong to the species pepo. Unfortunately or not, gourds, acorn squash, spaghetti squash and summer squashes do as well, so if the pumpkin farmer grew any other variety of pepo cross pollination may have occurred and the plants you grow next year may not be true to type from the seeds you save.

If you'd like to experiment, let's assume that the pumpkins were the one and only inhabitants of pumpkin patch. The actual process of saving seeds is very simple. After hollowing out your favorite pumpkins, those with the attributes you like the best and want to pass on to future generations, simply wash the seeds quickly in a colander, blot on a paper towel and place on a pie plate for several days until completely dry. Store for the winter in an envelope marked with the variety and date in a cool, humidity-free spot. In late winter you can easily conduct a germination test. The easiest way to do it is to sow a few seeds in a paper cup filled with soil and placed in a warm spot. Record how many come up and then plan accordingly when you sow your hills come springtime.

This question came from Jeremy, who reads the column in the Palmer

Mary asked me this question: "I Journal Register: "Can you give me bought some fantastic pumpkins this some tips for digging up my cherished rosemary plant and overwintering it in the house?'

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (Rosemarinus officinalis), the herb of remembrance. For many years I brought my plants in and out with the seasons, and they got amazingly large. I wish you the same luck. The key to growing it successfully indoors is "cool but sunny." My old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as fortunate, try for a sunny window away from dry

heat, in other words far from heat vents. But first, make sure you give it

the best possible start by salvaging as much of the root ball as possible. This will minimize the shock of being potted up. Position your shovel along the "drip line" of the plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference. After you've made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift. Have a pot ready- one that is an inch or two bigger than the root ball is sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter growth. My container of choice is always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine too. Steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly. I usually put a couple of inches of potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a hard frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the weather turns decidedly cold. You can use this same advice for other tender herbs such as French lavender, bay tree and scented geraniums.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the sub-



Roberta McQuaid

Letters to the Editor

Wreath set cancelled for this year

The Palmer Historical and Cultural Center's Tree and Wreath Festival began in 2013 and has become part of the Palmer area's holiday tradition. Over the years, local organizations and businesses have combined with us to make it a much-anticipated celebration.

We began to organize this year's festival in August. We soon learned that it could not be the same event as it had been in the past because of the pandemic and all the rules that came with it. People just couldn't come. Luckily, we devised a way to do the TreeFest online.

The next step was to contact our sponsors, the individuals and small businesses that had always been so supportive in the past. We soon learned that many of them could not participate because of the same pandemic and restrictions that had forced a change in the operation of the Festival itself. These are the groups that have borne the brunt of the economic downturn in

Understandably, most of our sponsors simply could not donate trees this year. These limitations, and our desire to protect public safety, contributed to our decision not to hold the TreeFest this year.

Our preparations this year will help us to hold the TreeFest and other events in the future. We are most grateful to our sponsors, supporters, and visitors, and to the many volunteers who make it all possible. We look forward to resuming the fundraisers, and our many other community services, as soon as possible.

> Happy Holidays, Board of Directors

Thank you

Thanks for supporting our hospitalized veterans Amvets Post #74 recently held our 14th annual Joseph Kennon Golf Tournamnet at Mill Valley Links in Belchertown, MA on September 12. Proceeds to benefit The Holyoke Soldiers Home Recreation Fund, Holyoke, MA. The weather was perfect even if some of the golfing may not have been! It didn't dampen any spirits and camaraderie shared by 14 teams consisting of Veteran members, Sons, Ladies Auxiliary and invited

A special thanks to Tim Kurt and his staff at Mill Valley for helping to coordinate the event and put on a dinner to go at the turn, practicing social distancing. The dinner consisted of a Hamburger, Salad and Macaroni Salad. Ron Izek won the 50/50 raffle, Bill Rogers won a golf bag and John Stokosa won closest to pin. Several smaller raffles followed the dinner and were again one of the high points of the tournament.

The winning team of Dave McKee, Wayne Cole, Justin Cole and Steve Smith came in at a scorching (-13) to win this years Commanders Trophy.

I would like to thank our continuous sponsors, Senator Anne Gobi, State Rep. Todd Smola, Crimmins/ Gravel Life Insurance Co. and Country Bank for Savings. Also Amvets Post #74, The Sons of AMVETS Squadron #74 as well as The Ladies Auxiliary #74. Our long time sponsors Steve Chicchia C.P.A and Palmer Foundry. The following businesses made a monetary donation or gift, St. Joes Club, Big Y Supermarkets and Mill Valley Golf Club.

On behalf of Amvets Post #74 I'd like to thank all who made a donation or came out to support our fundraiser to help our hospitalized Veterans at The Holyoke Soldiers Home. We'd like to thank Caroline Kennon, Amvets State Commmander and her sister for helping run the raffles and Carla C. for making sponsor signs once again. We'd also like to thank all of the participants for their continued support.

Til' next year: Hit 'Em Hard, Keep 'Em in the Fairway and stay safe!

> Stanley Siok, Amvets Post #74 Golf Committee Chairman

to the editor welcome

Election letters

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley. com. Please include a daytime tele phone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress state Senate, state House, district at torney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of

Please send opinions to: The Journal Register Letter to the Editor 24 Water St., Palmer MA 01069, or by e-mail to: mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.



Guidance needed on Social Security

Dear Rusty: I am turning 67 in October and as of today, I am still employed full time. I really do not plan on retiring unless I am forced to. But how do I arrange my Social Security and Medical care stuff. It seems this subject is like a color, and everyone has a different color they like. Is there any way for me to figure this out with help or on my own? I could really use some guidance.

Dear Perplexed: Okay, let's look at your Social Security and your Medicare separately, because they're

You do not need to do anything about Social Security until you are ready to start collecting your benefits. Since you have already reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66, you are now earning Delayed Retirement Credits at the rate of .667% per month. That means that your benefit in October, if you were to claim it then, would be 8% more than it would have been at age 66. If you continue to delay applying for Social Security benefits, you will continue to earn those DRCs up to age 70, when your benefit amount would be 32% more than it would have been at your FRA. The choice of when to claim your Social Security is yours to make, considering your need for the money, your health and your expected longevity. The longer you wait (up to

and Medicare

By Russell Gloor Guest columnist

Signed: Perplexed

two totally independent programs.

70), the more your benefit will be, and if you expect



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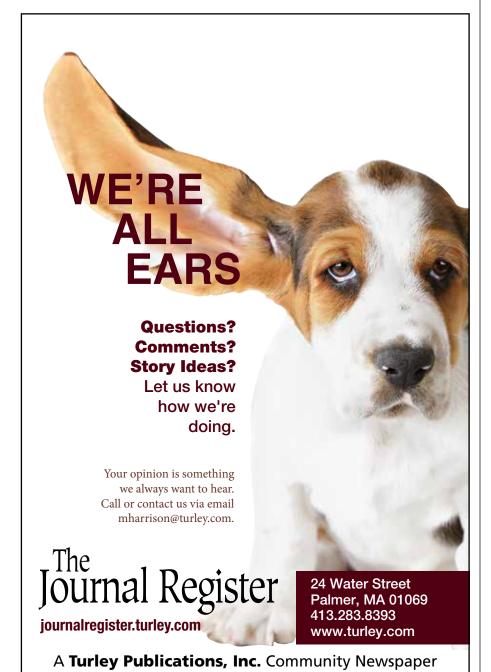
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Viewpoints

America's standing in the world

By Lee Hamilton Guest columnist

Call it American exceptionalism or not, the American people have always embraced the idea that we live in an exceptional country. We are grateful to be Americans. We take a lot of pride in our country, as we should. Pride and patriotism are among America's greatest strengths. Having said that, we need to be clear-eyed about our limits. Sometimes we tend to think we should always be No. 1, no matter what metrics we apply. That attitude can lead to arrogance and a lack of interest in the world.

There are always things we can learn from other

South Korea's success in containing the COVID-19 pandemic is instructive. The U.S. has just over six times the population of South Korea, but we have had nearly 300 times as many COVID-19 cases and nearly 500 times as many deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University data. Other Asian countries have also had notable success in containing the virus. We could learn from them. Recently, the New York Times reported on the 2020 Social Progress Index, which ranks countries on measures of health, safety, nutrition, education, freedom, the environment and other factors associated with quality of life. It's a bit of a shock that the U.S. comes in 28th. By some measures, we are outstanding: Our universities are the best in the world, but we are No. 91 (out of 163 countries) in access to quality basic education. We have the best medical technology, but we are No. 97 in access to quality health care. By most measures, the U.S. was the unchallenged world leader, roughly from the end of Word War II to the early years of the 21st century. We had a positive, optimistic vision of our role in the world and the importance of our global engagement. We built the institutions that created the post-World War II international order. But from Vietnam forward through Iraq and Afghanistan, we learned some of the constraints on our power. These challenges prompted us to re-examine our role in the world. Gradually, we accepted the costs as well as the benefits of being No. 1. The question arose: Did we really want to be the world's leader in all things?

The issue of America's role in the world – what it is, and what it should be – is the central question in U.S. foreign policy. My sense is that we should play a prominent leadership role in world affairs, recognizing we should actively engage in the world, that our values and ideals are our best tools.

We should be neither interventionist nor isolationist. Use of force, while always at the ready, should be a last, not a first resort. Instead, we should emphasize our economic and political strength, our diplomacy, our support for development, fair trade, and our efforts to secure arms control agreements and combat climate

With our goal to spread democracy and freedom, our foreign policy has a strong moral component. But we also have to be pragmatic and sensitive to other nations, especially allies, work to maintain the support of the American people, and defend our vital interests. Such an approach will strengthen and sustain America's standing in the world.

HALLOWEEN I from page 1

here's a look at the change since late summer. All the towns have seen an increase over the last two weeks:

- Brimfield: 18 vs. 9 on July 29
- Holland: 14 vs. 9 on July 29 Monson: 72 vs 44 on July 29
- Palmer: 89 vs 56 on July 29

For The Town of Monson, the Board of Selectmen during their recent meeting on Oct. 13, decided they will be celebrating Halloween, without their traditional parade, to help prevent a potential spread. At the meet-

ing, Town Administrator Evan Brassard said the state and U.S. Centers for Diseases Control have put out guidance that "skew towards shying away from large group activities."

"They do recommend against door to door, but there are some guidelines if you do want to do door to door," said Brassard. "That will lower it from a high risk category to moderate risk category. And so, those activities if you were looking to continue to have trick or treating but make it less risk would be to place candy on a platter instead of a bowl."

After a rundown of the guidelines, Board Chairman Dr. Richard Smith said he's in favor of the town celebrating the holiday, "using the guidance from the state."

In the end, the selectmen voted 3-1 in favor of Halloween between the hours of 4-6 p.m. For more information, visit the town's Facebook page.

In Brimfield, the town posted on the police department's Facebook page that trick-or-treating hours are 4-7 p.m.

SOCIAL SECURITY I from page 4

at least average longevity (about 84 for a man your current age) then you'll get both a higher benefit amount and more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting to claim your Social Security.

As for Medicare, if you are now covered by your employer's "creditable" healthcare plan, you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your current employer coverage ends (when you stop working). "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants. If you now have "creditable" employer healthcare coverage (including drug coverage) you won't be liable for a Late Enrollment Penalty for enrolling in Medicare (or a drug plan) later. If you are still working and know your creditable employer coverage will end soon, you can enroll for Medicare benefits to start coincident with the end of your employer coverage. Or, after you stop working, you can enroll in Medicare during a "Special Enrollment Period" (or "SEP" for those transitioning from employer coverage to Medicare coverage). Your SEP for Medicare will last for eight months after you stop working, but you only have 63 days after the end of your employer drug coverage to enroll in a Part D prescription drug plan.

The bottom line is this - you don't need to enroll in Medicare until your creditable employer healthcare coverage ends. And you don't need to apply for Social Security until you wish to start receiving benefits (just don't wait beyond 70).

One final point because you were born in 1953: if you are now married and your wife is already collecting her Social Security, you can file a "restricted application for spouse benefits only" and collect only a spouse benefit from your wife, while still allowing your own benefit to continue to grow until you are 70. But this option is only available to you because you were born before Jan. 2, 1954.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfounda-

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

I have a small flock of six white-throated sparrows feeding on the ground under my feeder. As the name implies, the male has a white throat, a gray breast with faint streaks. The crown is dark with buff or white central stripe. The eyebrow is white or tan with a yellow mark in front.

Females have less bold pattern on the crown, grayer throat, duller yellow before the eye and more streaking on the breast. The immature sparrows look like the female. There are two morphs of this species, white and tan, based on the color of the eyebrows. Breeding pair usually contains one bird from each morph.

White-throated sparrows feed on the ground and eat weed seeds, grain, fruit and insects. At feeders, they eat cracked corn, sunflower seed and millet from tray feeders or scattered on the ground. They inhabit coniferous and mixed woods and brushy areas. Their song is two whistled notes followed by higher, quavering notes like "sweet sweet Canada Canada Canada." Calls are "tseeet" when birds are in flocks and "pink" in alarm.

The female lays four to six blue-



A white-throated sparrow.

green eggs with dark marks in a cuplike nest of grasses lined with hair or rootlets placed on the ground under a small tree or shrub. They summer in Canada.

Juncos

The dark-eyed juncos are back. They are one of my favorite winter birds and I love to watch them. I saw two in my yard this weekend. I also noticed a small flock fly up from the side of the road while driving. They will spend the winter here and head back to the tundra in the spring.

Flying turkeys

Saturday I saw a wild turkey take off to roost for the night. A second tur-

key followed the first one. The turkeys ran on the road, took flight and headed to the night roost in a tree. I was surprised how fast they can run. I probably saw the last two birds of a larger flock take flight.

I usually see wild turkeys almost daily as I travel. The number varies from a few Toms to flocks up to a dozen of hens and their almost grown young.

Gray catbirds

I am still seeing the gray catbirds in my yard. They winter along the east coast to Florida and the Gulf States.

Birds at the feeder

Black-capped chickadees, white-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice, blue jays, cardinals and downy woodpeckers come to the feeder daily. I am feeding shelled peanuts and they are a favorite of the birds. The sparrows eat the millet the other birds drop on the ground.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at ext. 100 or emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.

RAIL I from page 1

At a recent virtual rally in support of the plan, Ben Hood, co-founder of Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop, said,"we are historically their train stop in Palmer. It's just that we haven't been served by a train for a very long time. I think college students tend to like trains. Younger people tend to like trains and want trains, and we don't have enough of them for them." Hood said next month, the town council in Amherst is going to consider a resolution in favor of an east-west passenger rail with a stop in Palmer.

Grants up to \$10,000 available to local small businesses

The Town of Palmer is leading a regional Microenterprise Assistance Grant Program, awarding up to \$10,000 to eligible businesses in Palmer, Belchertown, Hampden, Hardwick, Ludlow, Monson and Ware that have experi-

enced financial loss due to Covid-19 and the

associated shut downs.

Eligible businesses must have five employees or fewer (including the owner), must have been in business since Jan. 1, 2019, and must be able to demonstrate revenue loss caused by the pandemic. The business owner's family income must fall within certain limits.

Other eligibility requirements apply. The Town of Palmer was awarded \$700,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds. The money is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Federal CARES Act and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development) for this regional program. The

Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, located in Ware, is administering the program locally.

We are grateful to the federal government and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to have this opportunity to assist our region's small businesses during this very difficult time." says Sarah Szczebak, community development director for the Town of Palmer.

'We encourage all eligible small businesses in these seven towns to apply for a Microenterprise Assistance Grant."

Grant awards will be made on a firstcome, first-served basis until the funds are exhausted. Applications are available on the QVCDC website at QVCDC.org. Paper copies of the application are also available at the OVCDC office in Ware.

To learn more about the Microenterprise Assistance Grant Program, contact Melissa Fales at melissa@qvcdc.org or 413-967-3001.

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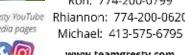


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Let's have some fun:

Cats or dogs? Dogs

What is the weirdest food you've ever eaten?

What is your favorite TV show? I like to watch Chicago Med, Fire & PD.

Favorite Holiday? Thanksgiving – no gifts to be just spending time with family.

If you could go anywhere in the world where would you go? Hawaii (I've been twice and it's just beautiful.)

Fun fact about you that many of your customers don't know: I love to watch football, read & sit by my pool.

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Though the seasons change, it's comforting to know that some things remain the same.



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Arts & Entertainment

A socially-distanced performance

Old Sturbridge Village hits the mark with live theater

> By Bruce Coulter Correspondent

STURBRIDGE - To say COVID-19 has left its mark on communities around the world would be an understatement. Numerous sporting and entertainment venues shuttered their doors, leaving sports fans, and music and theater lovers without any options for several months.

But now, as cities and towns in the Bay State begin to slowly open, Old Sturbridge Village is ready to serve up some much-needed enjoyment: live theater, featuring the stories and poems of Edgar Allan Poe at six different locations throughout the village, offering "tales of horror, revenge, obsession, and deception will be repeated in pulsating rhythm...like a beating heart."

Daniel Friel, director of public and government relations at OSV, said the event is already close to sold out.

"We have over 8,000 tickets sold," he said, adding ticket sales will be capped at 9,600.

Sunday's event offered the media a "first glimpse" of program, which opens to the public Wednesday, Oct. 21.

For the past few years, OSV has offered the "Sleepy Hollow Experience," but due to guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control, Friel said they had to "adapt the vil-

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lage's Halloween program.

"We already have the trick-or- Hollow Experience. treat event on Halloween, so we took a little bit of that night and put together a brand-new program,"

Their efforts created a program that can be held outdoors and be

safe for guests and OSV employees as well as the actors performing each evening.

"A lot of people come out just for these events, such as our Halloween and our upcoming Christmas by Candlelight event, so we wanted to make sure we could still deliver [the events]."

The Nevermore program was written and directed by PJ Griffith, specifically for OSV and Coggeshall Farm Museum in Rhode Is-

According to Rhys Simmons, OSV's director of interpretation for the past 15 years, most of the actors are based in New York, where most of the casting was done. Griffith, he said, had to narrow the cast down to six members out of some 4,000 applicants.

Simmons said the relationship



Chelsea Renae portrays Annabel in "Nevermore: The Fantastic Terrors of Edgar Allan Poe," during a dress rehearsal Sunday, Oct. 18, at Prospero's Tavern at Old Sturbridge



Guests wander the common at Old Sturbridge Village, taking in a number of the six performances offered during each show of "Nevermore: The Fantastic Terrors of Edgar Allan Poe."



Turley Publications correspondent photos by Bruce Coulter Anna Cain offers a stirring performance as Psyche in front of the Meeting House at Old Sturbridge Village during a performance of "Nevermore: The **Fantastic Terrors of Edgar Allan Poe."**

between OSV and Griffith goes back a few years. Griffith was the original Brom Bones for the Sleep

That's how we originally connected," said Simmons.

Griffith also worked with the village on several projects, including the beer and cider festival held

"He's been involved with the museum since 2015," he said.

During the evening, the village will also offer kid-friendly events, such as ghost stories by a fire on the common, and Clues and Candy where children will be given a card that must be stamped at various locations and they can then pick up a bag of candy at the end.

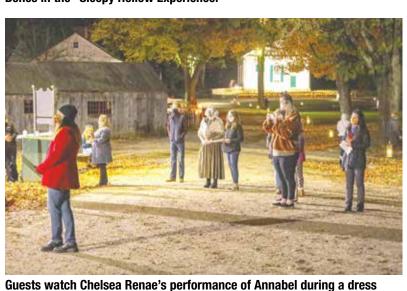
There will also be horse rides, and music throughout the evening performed by Lawrence Trailer. And

of course, the Headless Horseman will ride his steed throughout the village.

Nevermore, which Simmons said offers a mature theme for adults, the cast will "bring to life six of the hauntings from the mind of Edgar



this time taking the stage as Roderick. He previously performed as Brom Bones in the "Sleepy Hollow Experience."



rehearsal of "Nevermore: The Fantastic Terrors of Edgar Allan Poe."

Allen Poe."

"We're trying to hit all of the audience segments with this program," he said.

Griffith is no stranger to Old Sturbridge Village. He grew up near Hartford, Connecticut, and as previously mentioned, was the original Brom Bones in the Sleepy Hollow Experience. Nevermore is the third project he's directed at OSV.

Griffith said Nevermore was the result of a conversation with

Simmons, when both were trying to create a socially-distant program that was safe for guests.

"The first thing that came to my brain was the "Masque of the Red Death" and this idea that Poe wrote a world outside suffered from a plague and a rich, arrogant millionaire throwing a party for his friends and how the plague gets within his castle," said Griffith.

"With that came the idea to create a piece around the characters

> of Poe and telling their stories through the eyes of one of the

characters. That's what we've done with this," he said.

Anna Cain, whose fiery red hair is wholly appropriate for her character, Psyche, has been acting since she was a child. It was a path she chose to continue after working as a writer in advertising. She quit to tend bar and focus on the things she wanted to write and act. Part of her journey to theater included a stint in the army, which included a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

"I do a lot of live theater. I've done TV and film, but my heart is always in live theater," which, she added, can be scary. It puts the pressure that much higher, it makes you work that much harder and you get that immediate satisfaction. You can see the reactions of everybody.'

Cain has a history with Griffith. "I know PJ from Rockwood Music Hall [in Manhattan]," she said. After seeing the listing for auditions, Cain texted Griffith and said she wanted to audition for Nev-

She said Griffith suggested she audition for Psyche because "she and I currently have the same kind of crazy, but without murdering all the people in the story."

Cain adds she met Griffith while he was doing a concert for a musical he was working on – a rock musical about Jack the Ripper, but with a focus from the perspective of women – his victims.

In light of the lack of venues in New York, on and off Broadway thanks to COVID, Cain admits she'll take a paid job acting job until she can afford to be choosy in the roles she'll accept.

"But this one in particular, because I know his sense of humor and his sense of gore and horror, I knew it would be a combination of the creepy, but also leaning into the humor that is in so many of Poe's pieces," she said.

She also admits to being a "massive horror fan."

"Pre-COVID I still would have wanted to be a part of this, but especially since everything has been so shut down, we've all been incredibly desperate just to find a space to do the work that we miss so badly," said Cain.



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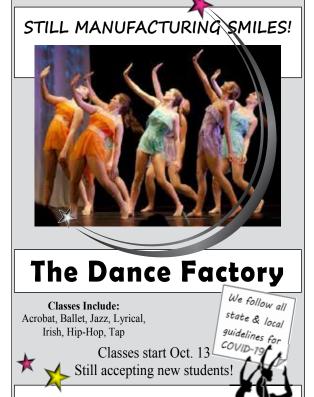
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MASKLESS I from page 1

along with her husband Keith Valley, commented after Hull responded to the criticism. Hull was admonished for being a public official, including her role on the Monson Board of Health, who set a poor example for the public during a pandemic.

"I just wanted to discuss briefly the letter that we submitted because out concerns have not been addressed," Karen Valley said. "This is not about a politcal rally or personal choice. It was about a board of health member failing to comply with our governor's orders and the Massachussets mandate."

Valley said she observed the rally from across the street while participating in a separate rally and was dismayed to see a group of people in which, Valley said, few wore masks and were not standing sixto-eight feet apart, as called for by state and federal guidelines to help limit the spread of the virus.

'What we observed roughly 80 to 100 attendees, mostly from out of town, almost universally not wearing masks, with the exception of two or three individuals.," Valley said.

"They were not social distancing. They were clumped together. The governor's order requires that if you can't socially distance, that you need to be wearing a mask. Mary appeared to be one of the organizers and this lack of social distancing and mask wearing was for three continuous hours. We were there in a small group of people that were wearing masks. We participated across the street for the duration of the [other] event. And our concern was the fact that Mary being on the board of health and a leader in town was the board of health should have been present and should have been offering and handing out masks.'

Hull disagreed with Valley's account.

"We did offer masks," she said. "We still live in the United States of America. People can chose not to wear them."

Addressing Valley directly, Hull suggested the complaint was

motivated by political differences. "I find it funny that you were comfortable being there with your mask on at all," Hull said.

"If your concern is so great and you say it's not political, which strikes me funny because you've seen me in public at meetings everywhere without a mask on. And we never had a problem until you saw me on the other side of the street. And all of a sudden it's a problem."

Prior to that rally, Monson was among the state's code "red" or high risk for COVID-19, towns and had just recently moved into the "grey" code for low-risk communities. Monson has since added new cases and was reclassified last week into the "yellow" code for elevated public officials are entitled to the

"And because she was an organizer, she was aware of what this event was like and what was going to happen," Valley said. "The timing of the event was also very questionable," she said, because the school committee had just approved a gradual phase-in of students back to the classroom through a hybrid model that began two weeks ago.

"So it was very disconcerting," Valley said.

"Everyone had a right to be there to advocate for their candidate, for their respective candidates. And everyone has the freedom of expression and the ability to peacefully assemble, but the issue is not about one person's choice about wearing a mask. It is about a town official, an elected official and a board of health member failing to comply with the governor's orders. So the response here tonight has not been satisfactory. And I would like to have the town present a more satisfactory response because otherwise this is a state department of public health issue. And I just really would like to see this resolved within the town amongst ourselves."

Hull said she wasn't the organizer of the event but rather was assisting "the young man" who asked her to help.

"And I would have done it if anybody came up to me from a different party," Hull said. "It wasn't a political thing for me.'

Other opinions

Before Keith Valley spoke at the meeting, two other residents, Jessica Allen and Dave Xanatos, both offered opinions about wearing masks in public during the pandemic in general and this rally in particular.

"I respect Karen very much and I and I do respect her opinion," Hill

"I too was at the rally. I chose to wear a mask. I observed many, many others wearing masks around me as well. That said, the CDC and the state both recognize that wearing masks may not be possible in every situation or for some people. In fact, in some situations, wearing a mask may exacerbate a physical or mental health condition or even lead to a medical emergency. And the CDC states on their site that these individuals can actually take other measures to reduce the risk of COVID spread, including social distancing, frequent hand washing and hand sanitizer. So with the frenzy around masks, sometimes this information is lost in the conversation. And I'm just at the thought that people shouldn't get harassed or shamed by others when we don't know that individual's personal sit-

Allen also said she believes

same health privacy protections as other citizens.

"So I just wanted to add that to the conversation.," Allen said. "I do think it's critical that we tread carefully on this topic and that we do keep this in mind."

Santos, who said he, too, attended the rally Hull participated in, asked if masks in public are an actual state mandate and Smith told him it is.

"It started as a recommendation and then [Baker] changed it over to a mandate," Smith said.

Asked by Xanatos if there are any legal repercussions to not following Baker's mask mandate, Smith told him, "that's for the courts to decide," which drew a brief collective chuckle from those in the boardroom.

"I just wanted to say that I was I was at the at the rally and I chose to wear a mask," Xanatos said.

"I would like to echo everything that that Jessica just said. I believe this is something where despite the fact that I personally recommend that folks wear a mask, I think that it's something that we should not be getting into judging and shaming people who do not because we do not know their circumstances or their situation. And it is not up to us to be the mask police. I think that's everybody's choice."

Xanatos also said that he's a longtime Monson resident and estimated that he recognized about "90 percent" of the attendees as fellow residents.

When his turn came, Keith Valley said "I also was at this rally and I think that there's too much emphasis on the fact this was a rally because this was an event that should have promoted more mask-wearing. I did not notice anyone handing out any masks or were trying to even promote six-feet [distancing]. It is a public safety issue and politics and other things are getting pulled into this. If we want to do the best for our community, then we as leaders need to do better and I don't feel we, as a community, did that in this

Later in the week, Hull talked more about the rally and mask issue in an interview with the Journal Register. Asked if she has a medical or other personal reason that prevents her from wearing a mask, Hull invoked her right to privacy.

"It's a personal choice even if you have a medical issue to wear it or not wear it. I'm saying as a citizen, I have something you don't even know what it is. If you knew what it is...I'm not saying anything. You can't ask me that. You can't ask anyone that."

To read more of what Hull said in that interview, see page XXX.

HULL I from page 1

son was informed of the event and prepared from a public safety standpoint (i.e., police patrolling). However, with Mary being an elected town official, Board of Health member, and event organizer, it's unfortunate the town of Monson wasn't better informed and prepared to protect the community's public health given the recent outbreak in town that led to the state of Massachusetts declaring our community in the red."

Both also commented during the meeting that they believe Hull set a poor example for the public by not wearing a mask at the event, held in front of the town building. Hull isn't having any of it.

"It's a personal choice, even if you have a medical issue, to wear it or not wear it,"she said.

As for being accused of not setting a good example as an elected official and health board representative, Hull, a former U.S. Postal Service employee who now runs a business training people who want to be certified by the state to work in the cannabis industry, cited a couple of reasons why she rejects the premise.

"I have access to the same statistical information that everyone does and my choice is to not wear the mask. I do think the statistics is some of what I base my decision on. There's a reason. I'm

a researcher. It's what I do. It's my business. I know people in the community trust me – not all, but many – and as a member of the board of health, I take it very se-

Hull and Valley also disagree about the rally at the center of the dispute. Valley, a leader with the Monson Democrats, says it was a pro-Trump rally organized and attended by mostly out-oftowners; Hull contends it was a non-partisan event intended to be "inclusive" and "celebrate America" that drew nearly 100 people, mostly residents. Valley said when she learned about the rally the day before, she organized a pro-Biden rally across the street and that about 15 people showed up.

The larger rally, according to Valley, couldn't have been non-partisan, she said, because attendees on that side were carrying pro-Trump signs, chanting pro-Trump slogans and there was a "pop-up" stand selling Trump merchandise, Valley said.

If anyone made it political, Hull said, it was Valley.

"A citizen, a young man, wanted to have a rally to celebrate America and get people out. He asked me to help because I'm a 'get 'er done' kind of person. When the Democratic Party announced they were meeting [nearby] we put out a sign that said 'Monson Conservatives welcome Monson Democrats.' I went over to thank them for attending and they started yelling at me. The first person who approached me came so close

I had to put my hand out and said would you please stay back." Valley said neither Hull nor any other of her rally organizers did anything to make it seem in-

clusive. "They never reached out [to us] to participate," she said.

As for the discussion at last week's meeting, Valley said she feels like her complaint and subsequent remarks fell on deaf ears.

"I mentioned a couple of times I wasn't satisfied with the response given. I expected to hear from the board of selectmen that the health of the community would be protected and instead I heard 'not wearing a mask is my right.' I don't feel like I was heard. I don't feel like they adequately addressed my concerns."

Valley also said she holds no animus for Hull.

"I'm not saying she should give her resignation or anything like that," Valley said. "I'm just looking for assurances from the board of health that they're looped into these things."

To watch or listen to the Oct. 13 meeting, go to http://m-pact.tv/.

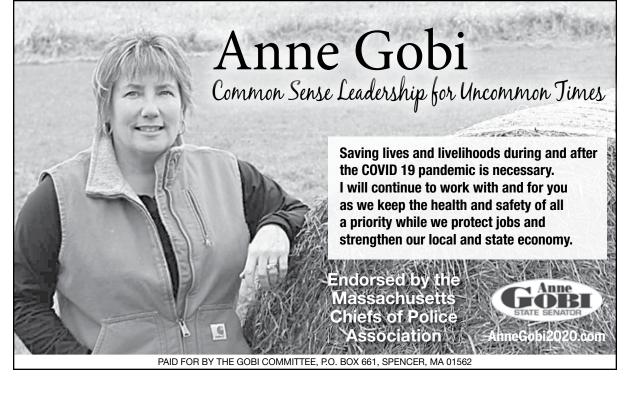
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enee Niedziela has been the owner and president of The J. Stolar Insurance Agency, Inc. for the past sixteen years. From technology to building accessibility, Renee has made many changes over the years that have promoted the growth of the agency as well as functionality of the building and working environment.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

NOW

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text - no PDFs, please - to mharrison@turley.com.

PUMPKIN CARVING AND FOOD TRUCKS

Everyone is invited to Hitchcock Academy at 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 for their Pumpkin Path event. Carve pumpkins (bring your own carving tools) or use their supplies to decorate or paint a pumpkin to display in the Pumpkin Path walk that will be held 6-8 p.m. The event is planned for outside on the lawn. Food will be available from a food truck 4:30-7:30 p.m. The entry fee is just \$10 that includes a pumpkin to decorate. If you just want to enter the contest with your own decorated pumpkin, you can bring it down between 3 and 5:30 p.m. to be displayed for the competition. That fee is just \$5. Prizes will be awarded by popular vote. All ages are welcome to participate. Children participating will receive a special treat bag and are encouraged to wear their costumes. The event is sponsored by B. T. and Sons Towing & Recovery. Registration recommended unless just displaying at Hitchcockacademy.org.

INTERESTS

THE QUABOAG VALLEY QUIL-TERS GUILD is looking for new members. The Guild meets on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the basement of the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. The membership fee is \$48 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow us on Facebook.

MONSON WOODWACKERS wood carving club meets every Thursday at Monson Senior Center on Main Street in Monson from 6-8 p.m. The club meets throughout the year. Membership is \$10 for the year, payable in September. Anyone interested should call Barbara Mackintosh at 413-237-8303. There are many beginner

• Take Out

• Dine-In

projects and experienced teachers, as well, within the club.

STAINED GLASS MAKING CLASS will be held on Thursdays at the Holland Community Center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Glass and tools are supplied. Take six classes for \$48. Class sizes are limited and are open to all ages. For more information call Tom Baltazar at 508-245-2525.

DIAMOND NATIONAL/CASCADES DIAMOND. Did you every work there? Former employees meet on the third Tuesday of every month at Burgundy Brook Restaurant on Route 181 in Palmer from 9-10 a.m. The stories shared are often colorful but old friendships are renewed.

PALMER LIBRARY **UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS**

"Welcome to the Graveyard," a virtual tour Tuesday, Oct. 27, 6:30-8 p.m.

Presented by Brenda Sullivan, co-founder of the Gravestone Girls. Register at palemerlibrary.org/events.

Palmer Public Library Virtual Reader's Circle - Wednesdays, Nov. 18/Dec. 16 from

Join our new monthly all-genres Virtual Reader's Circle! Have you read a great book that you want to share with others? Are you looking for new book or author recommendations? Join us for this brand new, all genres welcome, informal, friendly virtual monthly book discussion meet-up via Zoom! To register, please visit our calendar at: www.palmerlibrary.org/events

Palmer Public Library Virtual Cookbook Club - Thursdays, Oct. 22/Nov. 19/ Dec. 17 from 6—7 p.m.:

Do you love to cook or bake and talk about food? Join our new monthly online cookbook club to learn and share recipes! Pick a recipe from your favorite cookbook, place a hold on a cookbook from our catalog for curbside pickup, or download one from our digital catalog. Make the recipe, and then chat via Zoom with others about how it turned out. Have fun while sharing and discovering recipes and cooking tips! To register, please visit our calendar at: www.palmerlibrary.org/events

Virtual Harry Potter Trivia Night for All Ages - Friday, Oct. 30 from 6-7:30 p.m.: The Palmer Public Library presents a fun night of virtual (via Zoom) trivia for all age about the Wizarding World of Harry Potter! Play solo or if you'd like to play on a team, recruit members of your household, or teamates that can play with you through a phone or video call. Have your team name ready and come in costume for our virtual intermission costume extravaganza! To register, please visit our calendar at: www. palmerlibrary.org/events

ONGOING

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations,, call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.

RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and takedown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three Rivers and Thorndike.

PALMER SALVATION ARMY Service Extension Unit offers residents in Palmer and Brimfield emergency assistance on a periodic basis. The outreach coordinator will be located on the second floor of St. Paul's Unitarian Universalist Church at 1060 Central St., Palmer. You must schedule an appointment by calling 413-221-8283 so you know what documentation to bring since those seeking assistance have to meet certain criteria and show proof of need. Please leave your name, number and the date you called. Phone messages are checked weekly, not daily.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children's books, romances, cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-0033 for more information.

MARTHA'S TABLE STAFF at the Monson-Glendale United Methodist

Church is supporting the Monson Open Pantry by providing a meal once a month to anyone who will bring a non-perishable food item. Staff have begun packing and delivering the meals in cooperation with the Monson Senior Center. The meal is served at the church, 162 Main St., Monson on the third Saturday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information call 267-3798.

SENIOR LUNCHEON. The Monson Council on Aging invites seniors over age 60 to its luncheon program every Monday - Friday at the Monson Senior Center, 106 Main St., Monson. Home cooked meals are always served at noon. The requested donation of \$2.50 includes the entrée, bread, dessert and beverage. Menus are available in the COA newsletter. Luncheon reservations must be made by 2:30 p.m. the day before you would like to come to lunch. For more info or van reservations, call 267-

GAME NIGHT will be held at Top Floor Learning at the Palmer Public Library the second Tuesday of each month from 6-7:45 p.m. There is no fee or registration required, and attendants must be 16 years of age or older unless accompanied by an adult. Games include Scrabble, Cribbage, Monopoly, Rummy, Chess, Checkers, Uno, Yahtzee, Bridge, Skipboo, Crazy 8's, Hearts, Dominos, etc. Attendees may bring their own. For more information call 283-2329 or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

MAKE A DONATION to the Monson Free Library in honor of a special person or family member, in the form of a book, DVD or CD, audio book or magazine subscription. The person will receive a letter informing them of your gift. The cost of donations is \$25 for a book, \$20 for a CD or DVD, \$100 for an audio book and \$20 for a magazine subscription. For more information call

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Please join us at 6 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at Palmer Healthcare Center, 250 Shearer St. Palmer. Light refreshments will be served Contact Kate Martin at 413-283-8361 for more information.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED - Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond? "Christianity Explored" is a study which seeks to answer these questions from the Gospel of Mark. The course involves seven weekly one-hour sessions using Bible study, related DVD viewing, and discussion of the pertinent passages. For more information contact Mal at 413-267-5025.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at the Brimfield Senior Center, located in the First Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield include strength training classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m.; Tai Chi on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m.; gentle arthritis and chair yoga combo classes

on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; bingo on the second a n d fourth

Wednesday of the monthly (\$1 per card, 25 cents per game, cover-all price \$10); There is a suggested donation of \$2 for 55 and up and \$3 for under 55. Lunch is served on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with reservations required by 11 a.m. on the previous day. There is a \$2 suggested donation. Plarning, crocheting and knitting is offered the first Friday of each month and massage with Vicki is offered the third Tuesday of the month from 9:15-11:15 a.m., by appointment only. The cost is \$5 for 10 minutes and \$15 for 20 minutes. For more information call 413-245-7253.

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM at 35 Ely Rd., Monson, CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. The hiking trails and the sculpture garden are open daily until dusk. For more information call 413-267-5210, email khm@keephomesteadmuseum. org or visit www.keephomesteadmuseum.

BAYSTATE WING AUXILIARY GIFT SHOP sells unique merchandise at reasonable prices. Gift shop hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with some weekend hours extended during the holidays. All proceeds benefit the Baystate Wing Hospital, a major part of the community, and provide scholarships to seniors graduating from local high schools. Call 413-370-8169 for more information.

MONSON DEMOCRATS WANTED by the Monson Democratic Town Committee that holds meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Polish American Citizens Club, 7 Bliss St., Monson at 7

HAVE YOU HAD A BABY RECENT-LY? If you are living in the Palmer, Monson or surrounding communities and you have a newborn baby, call the Palmer Monson Family Network at 283-6246 to get your free canvas bag packing with information for you and practical goodies for your baby. The Family Network, a Collaborative for Educational Services program, is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

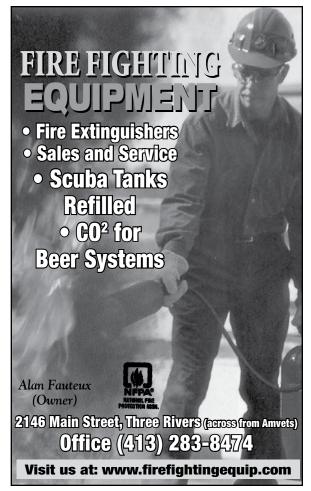
PLAY & LEARN DROP-IN TIME is happening throughout the school year at the Palmer Monson Family Network on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10-11:30am. The free playgroup includes free play time, snack and circle time and is open to all families and caregivers and their children from 0-5 years old. All PMFN programs are free. The PMFN is located at 4 Springfield St. in Three Rivers and is a program of the Collaborative of Educational Services and receives funding from the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care. For more information call 283-6246.

INFANT AND TODDLER TIME at the Palmer Monson Family Network is available for families with little ones from 0-24 months of age. The free program happens throughout the school year on Wednesdays from 9-10:30 a.m. and provides a fun environment for families and caregivers to connect with others with young children. Snack and circle time are included. Call 283-6246 for more information.

HOLLAND COMMUNITY CEN-TER, 40 Brimfield Holland, has announced the following recurring events: Stay Fit classes with Sharon on Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Dance Fit with Alice on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Low Impact Workout with Debbie Sichol on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Yoga with Sharon on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Tai Chi with David Masera every other Thursday at 10 a.m. For more information call 413-245-3163.







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Business

North Brookfield Savings Bank promotes five employees

North Brookfield Savings Bank is proud to announce the recent promotion of its employees, Meagan Brousseau, Joseph Ribeiro, Jessica Shimansky, Hayley Sprague and Kyle Leonard, who have continuously displayed their commitment to the customers, communities and the bank's overall success.

"We are so happy to announce these well-deserved promotions and to have Meagan, Joseph, Jessica, Hayley and Kyle, as a part of the North Brookfield Savings Bank team," said North Brookfield Savings Bank President and CEO Donna Boulanger. "I know that as they continue to grow within the bank their support and commitment to our communities and values shall continue as well."

Meagan Brousseau

Meagan Brousseau, of East Brookfield, has been promoted to branch manager and will be based out of the Bank's West Brookfield Branch location at 128 West Main

St. She preheld viously the role of assistant branch manager with the bank. In her new role, Brousseau will be responsible for managing the day-to-day op-



erations of the branch, overseeing the teller line, scheduling, account openings and inputting loan applications. She has worked in bank-

ing for over 19 years and brings a duties as well as processing account wealth of knowledge and dedication to customer service into her new position. Brousseau enjoys volunteering at many community events such as the Asparagus Festival in West Brookfield, the Apple Country Fair in Brookfield and the East Brookfield Fire Department Meat Raffle. "I am excited to continue building relationships with the wonderful customers that come to the West Brookfield branch," said Brousseau, "I look forward to being able to continue to provide the best customer service possible for our customers and to continue to offer support to the local communities."

Joseph Ribeiro

Joseph Ribeiro, of Ludlow, has been promoted to the role of assistant branch manager, IRA specialist and bank security officer. He will primarily



based out of the bank's North Brookfield branch at 9 Gilbert St. He previously held the role of supervisor, IRA specialist and bank security officer where his responsibilities included overseeing all of the bank's IRA accounts and any transactions processed through them, as well as opening and closing the branch, overseeing tellers and their work, and serving with customers on a day to day basis.

In his new role, Ribeiro will be responsible for all of his previous

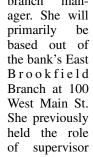
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openings and assisting branch management. Ribeiro holds a Fundamentals of Banking Certificate from the New England College of Business and has extensive experience in customer-facing positions that included the handling and processing of monetary transactions in addition to his three years with the bank.

"The biggest thing I am looking forward to is the experience and knowledge I will gain from my new responsibilities. The knowledge and experience will help me grow in my current position as well as any other positions I pursue," said Ribeiro, "My main goals for this new position are to work toward becoming a branch manager, as well as, continuing to expand my knowledge regarding my IRA specialist and bank security officer roles."

Jessica Shimansky Jessica Shimansky, of Brook-

field, has been promoted to the role of assistant branch man-



where she was responsible for resetting online banking, customer check ordering, opening accounts and opening or closing the branch.

In her new role, Shimansky will continue to be responsible for all of her previous duties as well as assisting customers with any issues in banking, managing the branches daily needs, opening consumer and business accounts, reviewing business account folders for proper documentation, loan applications and producing instant issue debit cards. Shimansky has over a decade of strong experience in customer service and administration in addition to her five years with the bank.

"I am looking forward to continuing to grow and increase my knowledge of the banking field," said Shimansky, "As I do, I hope to take on more loans that come into the branch and be able to better serves our customers. I am also eager to volunteer more in the community when we are able to do so again.'

Hayley Sprague

Hayley Sprague, of Three Rivers, has been promoted to the role of

loan servicing representative. She previously held the role of supervisor where she was responsible for ensuring excellent customer with service all transactions working

with customers to resolve any issues that may have come up in their banking experiences. She was also responsible in conjunction with the branch manager, for daily ATM and vault balancing, cash ordering and taking on consumer loans.

be responsible for the servicing loans in both filing hard copies and maintaining the files electronically, as well as, providing excellent customer service and embodying NBSB's core values. Sprague holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from UMASS Amherst.

"I am excited to learn how everything works behind the scenes in the back office after being on the teller lines for the last year and a half as well as gaining a better understanding on the workings of servicing loans.," said Sprague. "My new goals for this position are to learn as much as possible through trainings and my loan team members while providing excellent customer service for our customers."

Kyle Leonard

Kyle Leonard, of Spencer, has been promoted to the role of assis-

tant IT manager. He previously held the role of IT security analyst I where he was responsible for administering user access changes, security controls, configurations



and providing user assistance with any login or password issue. As well as, reviewing daily security reports and findings and providing appropriate documentation on any reported issues or configuration

In his new role, Leonard will Bank.com.

In her new role, Sprague will be responsible for vulnerability and risk management, vendor management, quarterly access reviews and security awareness training, in addition to all of previous responsibilities. Leonard is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in information technology with a focus in IT management and is expecting to graduate in December 2021. He has five years of previous experience in IT security and support with the U.S. Army and BJ's Wholesale Club.

> "I am looking forward to the new challenges and opportunities I am able to take on, looking for any way I can increase my current responsibilities to better help the IT department and the bank as a whole," said Leonard, "A continuous goal for myself is to continue to adapt to the constant changes the IT field brings, and allow myself to be an channel for those outside the department to help them understand a problem that may require IT's involvement. Another goal of mine is to become an educator of IT. I hope to provide great information in easy terms of understanding that non-IT members comprehend so they can learn from IT issues and help to prevent any issues in the future by being prepared." North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Palmer and Three Rivers Village of Palmer. For additional information, please call 1-866-711-6272 or visit us online at www.NorthBrookfieldSavings-

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SOCCER

Mustangs take care of rival Panthers



By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

MONSON — The eight seniors on this year's Monson girls varsity soccer team were in the sixth grade the last time that the Lady Mustangs lost to archrival Palmer.

The Lady Mustangs kept the unbeaten streak alive by coasting to a 5-0 Senior Day victory over the Lady Panthers at Larry Tassinari Field in Monson, last Wednesday afternoon.

"There is a lot of mutual respect between the two teams and all of the girls know each other," said Monson head coach Eric Degnan. "We had a quick start to the game and were able to score a couple of goals, which helped settle us down."

The shutout victory improved the Lady Mustangs overall season record to 2-0.

The Lady Panthers, who entered the match with a 2-0 record, lost for the first time this season.

"We made a couple of mental errors, which really hurt us today," said Palmer head coach Nick Marciano. "We did have a lot of opportunities, but we just couldn't score any goals against them."

The eight Monson seniors, who were honored in a ceremony following the match, are Sydnie DeVries, Alex Doyle, Madison Bonneau, Camille Lobik, Hannag Flagg, Lizzie Miller, Olivia Colling, and Isabel

"The respect that I have for our eight seniors is very hard to put into words," Degnan said. "They're very special to me and the younger players on the team. Not only are they quality soccer players, they are also wonderful kids. It's been a pleasure to coach them and I'm thrilled that they have an opportunity to play soccer this year."

The last time that the Lady Panthers celebrated a win in the rivalry series was on October 28, 2014.

Maddy Stahelski, who's currently a member of the Sacred Heart University women's soccer team, scored the only goal of that match which was played under the lights at

SOCCER | page 2

SOCCER

Play continues as high-risk communities emerge

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

REGION - It is clear to many MIAA official, school administrations, and athletic directors, that the Fall 1 season was not going to be without hiccups.

Already, a few student-athletes have tested positive for the coronavirus, and the bubble of Springfield teams have had to shut down their sports due to Springfield remaining high-risk for multiple weeks in a

But more locally, a few communities have reacted to being in the "red" differently.

Belchertown, widely known now to have stricter guidelines for athletics than other communities, has now had to postpone a number of games scheduled against neighboring Amherst Regional High School. Amherst is in a Hampshire "bubble" league with Belchertown, South Hadley, and Granby among their opponents. While other schools within the bubble are continuing to play against Amherst, now in its second consecutive week of being a highrisk community for COVID-19, Belchertown will not allow Amherst to come to Belchertown, and will not travel there until Amherst is no longer a high-risk community.

FALL | page 2

BASEBALL

JLS team wins title



MONSON - Last Sunday, Oct. 11, the Palmer/Monson JLS baseball team won the U13 Baseball Championship against East Longmeadow. Pictured are: Assistant Coach Jason Peterson (Monson), Assistant Coach Steve Youngberg (Palmer), Ass. Coach Mike Smith (Palmer), Head Coach Chris Matthieu (Monson) and Ass. Coach Bill Cieslak (Monson), Ben Pignone, Zach Youngberg, Brayden Mega, Jacek Cieslak, Jarrett Skowyra, Kyle Beaudry, Lucas Pignone, Zack Smith, Brennan Peterson, Niko Matthieu and Keenan Cieslak. Missing team members are Wesley Gainer and Riley Hurst.

Help feature your student-athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is underway and Turley Publications has been back out covering the action for the

first two weeks. We continue to ask for help

the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is even player, and you have inforwhere you all come in.

We have a limited number of

on this season in order to bring staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or mation or photographs to share, we

HELP | page 2

SOCCER



Gwen Duggan sends a pass away. Photos by Deanna Sloat



Ashley Placanico takes hold of the ball.

Panthers celebrate seniors, beat Indians



Jill Lombardi is pursued as she heads up the field.



Chelsea Bigos plays the ball off



Mia Murray fights to keep the ball.



Goalie Sarah Dresser makes a diving save.

PALMER – The Palmer High School girls soccer team celebrated Senior Day on Oct. 8 and defeated rival Ware 5-1. Palmer had three first half goals. Maddie

Theriault led the way with two goals and an assist, and Mia Murray, Chelsea Bigos, and Avery Labonte also scored in the win. Sarah Dresser made five saves in goal.

Monson defeats Pathfinder



Noah Martinson tries to keep the ball from going out of bounds.



Gabe Zippin socks a clearing pass up the field.



Connor Santos tries to weave through the Pathfinder midfield.



Cole Stevens starts to move up the field after receiving a pass from the goalie.



Colin Beaupre kicks off.



Goalie Austin Tocci kicks the ball away from the box.



Gavin Baral clears the way for his goalie to make a play.



Sam Endelous tries to steal the ball after an inbound pass.



Josh **Blaine** keeps the ball in bounds.



Colin Doktor clears the ball away for Pathfinder.

MONSON - After a slow start, Monson defeated Pathfinder in a Hampshire East matchup on Oct. 7. Alex Young had three goals for Monson while Noah Martinson scored twice. Josh Blaine and Tom Swift scored Pathfinder's goals.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Turleysports Athlete of the Week



Camille Lobik
Monson High School

She was one of the seniors honored at Senior Day at Monson High School. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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ARBELLA

Turley Sports joins Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your

friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your com-

HELP I from page 11

definitely want to hear from you.

If you don't see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any milestones that occur sports@turley.com.

during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submit-

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to

FALL I from page 11

The decision not to play Amherst was made by the school department on advice from Belchertown's health director. However, the Board of Health has not made any orders dictating how Belchertown High School approaches issues with sports, including the ban on spectators for the time being.

Another community in the highrisk category is Holyoke. Holyoke High School has been classified as high-risk for two weeks as of Oct. 16, but teams other than West Springfield have continued to play against them. Holyoke High School Athletic Director Melanie Martin said West Springfield will not play against Holyoke until Holyoke has been "yellow" or moderate-risk or better for two consecutive weeks.

Other communities, like Agawam, are following Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidance, which says three weeks of data are needed before a school considers ceasing play with a high-risk community.

'That's the guidance we received from DESE," said Agawam Athletic Director David Stratton. "We have no

problem playing against Holyoke." Agawam was even set to host Holyoke in field hockey on Oct. 16, and played at Holyoke in girls soccer on Oct. 7, the same day Holyoke received it's "red" designation.

In the Hampden East League that was created, East Longmeadow was a community placed at high-risk.

Among the schools in that bubble are Chicopee, Chicopee Comprehensive, Ludlow, and Minnechaug.

Ludlow Athletic Director Tim Brillo and Minnechaug Athletic Director Michael Roy both confirmed last week they have not received orders from their respective health departments to cease any type of play with red school. "Even though communities are in high risk," said Roy. "The guidance is to not shut everything down and wait for three weeks of data."

In what is perceived widely as a "second wave" of the virus, officials are still hopeful to get through the Fall 1 season without any type of widespread shutdown.

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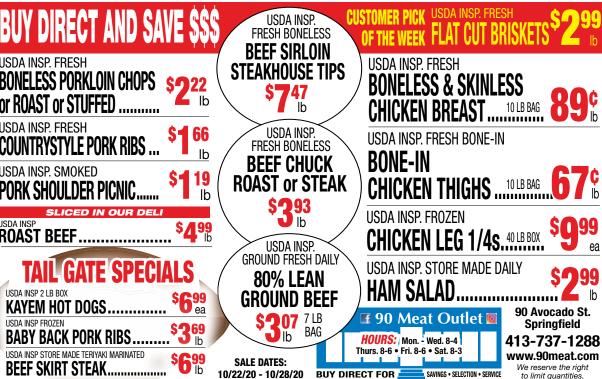
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Sydnie DeVries receives a pass.



Tennessee Murphy tries to settle the ball with pressure on.



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com **Emilia Finnegan stutter-steps with the ball.**

SOCCER I from page 11

Legion Field. The thrilling 1-0 victory clinched a postseason berth for

the Lady Panthers. The two neighboring high schools did battle to a 3-3 draw at made a total of 19 saves. Tassinari Field a year ago.

ault, who scored a pair of goals in that contest, was hoping to achieve a milestone in last Wednesday's match. She needed one more goal or assist to become the first Palmer girls' soccer player to reach 100 career points.

Theriault and her teammates were held at bay by the Lady Mustangs senior-laden defensive unit led by Miller, Colling, and DeVries, along with freshman Aniah Myrie.

"We've watched Maddy play for a number of years now and we have a tremendous amount of respect for her," Degnan said. "She's a fabulous soccer player and she's everything that you want in a striker. It took a collective team effort to stop her in today's game."

Theriault, who has been a member of the Palmer varsity soccer team since she was in the eighth grade, entered this week's action with 77 career goals and 22 career assists for a total of 99 career points. The Lady Panthers were scheduled to host Amherst on Monday afternoon.

Theriault did blast a direct kick off the crossbar with six minutes remaining in the opening quarter against Monson. The rebound was corralled by Bailey, who was the Lady Mustangs starting goalkeeper. She only had to make five other

saves in the contest.

Palmer junior goalie Sara Dresser saw a lot more action down at the other end of the field. She

tage, as they scored a pair of goals during the final three minutes of the

Monson's first goal was setup by Bonneau, who stole the ball away from a Palmer player in the left corner before sending a crossing pass into the box where it was put into the net by freshman Clara Monaghan. It was her first goal of the season.

"I thought Madison Bonneau did a great job of winning the ball in the corner," Degnan said. "She then served it into the box and Clara Monaghan was able to finish the play."

With 30 seconds remaining on the scoreboard clock, Monson freshman Kendall Bodak banged a shot off the crossbar and the ball bounced across the goal-line for her first varsity goal.

"Kendall sees the field so well as a central midfielder and she also distributes the ball very well," Degnan said. "She's very unselfish and it's very exciting to add her to the mix this year."

Eighth grader Tennessee Murphy was credited with the assist on the Lady Mustangs second goal.

At the start of the second quarter, a chip shot by Palmer senior Miyah Mega was saved by Bailey.

Theriault also had several shots

on goal, but the home team held onto the 2-0 lead.

The only goal of the second stanza was scored on a penalty kick by Murphy following a handball in The Lady Mustangs entered the box. It was the first time that Palmer junior Madalyn Theri- second quarter holding a 2-0 advan- Murphy attempted a P.K. in a var-

> "It was my first p.k. for this team and I was a little bit nervous, but I'm glad that I was able to finish it," said Murphy, who joined the varsity squad as a seventh grader. "I normally pick the same side every time that I've taken a penalty kick."

> A little less than five minutes into the third quarter, Dresser tried to make a save on a shot attempt, but the ball came loose and Murphy was in the right spot to knock the

> rebound shot into the open net. While the Monson underclassmen scored the first four goals against Palmer, Doyle added her name to the score sheet with an unassisted goal four minutes into the final quarter.

With eleven minutes remaining in the game, Bailey was replaced in goal by sophomore Samantha Stewart, who made one outstanding save.

Theriault took another direct kick, but Stewart was able to deflect the ball over the end-line with less than five minutes remaining.

Unlike the past couple of years, the Lady Panthers and the Lady Mustangs will be meeting for a second time this fall. That match is scheduled to take place at Duke Field, which is located behind Palmer High School, on Nov. 13.

Prizes added for tri-track race at **Stafford Motor Speedway**

SEEKONK – With a \$10,000 winning prize on the line for the Tri Track Open Modified Series debut at Stafford Motor Speedway on October 24, drivers will be pressing the throttle to the floor in hopes of getting to the front in the final laps.

But, that \$10,000 check can only leave with one driver in the Call Before You Dig Modified Classic 81 - a race that is quickly shaping up to be one of the best Modified races of the season, if not one of the best in years.

With more than 45 cars already entered for the debut at the half-mile, it's clear that the big prize isn't the only reason why drivers will flock to Connecticut. The total purse rises over \$49,500 -- and it continues to grow as the race gets closer. Second-place pays \$4,000, while third pays \$3,000, fourth \$2,500 and fifth \$2,100. Dropped down throughout the field, the driver that finishes last in the 81-lap feature will still collect a smooth \$1,000 for their efforts. For those who don't qualify into the feature, there will also be tow money provided if they have pre-registered for the race.

And that's just the regular posted purse.

Contingency bonuses have been a hot topic with the Tri Track Open Modified Series in 2020, and the debut at Stafford will be no different. Through the Pepsi Challenge, \$300 will be provided to each heat winner and the same \$300 will go towards each driver who wins a consi race. Through the first three races of the season, more than \$4,000 has already been

distributed through the Pepsi Chal-

Mark, Kate and the team at Green Construction have also provided a hard charger award for the Stafford event – and this one is going to dramatically increase someone's payday. Green will donate \$1,000 to the driver that advances the most positions during the race from start to finish. The award is determined by the driver that advances the most spots from their starting spot to where they finished. The team at Green Construction have been supporters of the Tri Track Series and have boosted the value on this award to give a bit of extra incentive for

For once, it might be more beneficial to start towards the back of the field.

Ted Anderson – and his company, Superior Refinishing -- have provided \$200 per race so far in 2020 – a total of \$600 – and will add \$200 more to the pot at Stafford. If the driver that starts on the pole wins the 81-lap feature, their total prize will move to \$10,800. However, if the polesitter doesn't win the race, the team at Superior will donate the \$800 towards creating a strong B-Main feature payout. Per the Tri Track rulebook, officials will determine on race day whether a B-Main is necessary based on how many cars are in the

Finally, a new contingency award added to the pot this week includes former JR Motorsports employee and current NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour winning crew chief Ryan Stone. Stone, and his business, Stone's Parts and Performance, based out of Milford, Connecticut, will sponsor a \$300 award for the driver that posts the fastest lap in the 81-lap race. Stone's is a FURY parts dealer that also offers chassis consultation, shock services, setup help and more.

The entry list for the race includes the top names in Modified racing - with Doug Coby, Keith Rocco Justin Bonsignore, Matt Hirschman, Ron Silk, Chase Dowling, Ronnie Williams, Mike Christopher Jr., Les Hinckley, Matt Swanson, Woody Pitkat, Burt Myers, Jon McKennedy and more expected. The entry list stands at 48 drivers on Friday, October 16, with still a week to go before the green flag.

Stafford Motor Speedway will run at 50% capacity for this event due to restrictions by the state of Connecticut because of COVID-19. To purchase tickets, fans should visit the Stafford online store on the Stafford website. Tickets are \$35 for adults in general admission, \$10 for kids that are 6 to 14, and free for those under 5. Pit passes are also available for purchase at \$50. Any remaining tickets would be available at the gate if they don't sell out.

The race day schedule includes practice for the Tri Track Series from 11-12:30 p.m., with qualifying heat races starting at 1:30 p.m. The Call Before You Dig Modified Classic 81 is scheduled to take the green flag around 4:30 p.m. The Stafford SK Light Modifieds and Street Stocks will also join the racing card.

Lutz wins modified race at Thompson

THOMPSON, Conn. — Miller Place, NY's Craig Lutz ended the 2020 NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour season on the highest of highs with his second win of the year at Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Sunday, October 11. Lutz swiped the lead from Jon McKennedy with seven laps remaining and hung on to win the 150-lap event at the 58th Annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing as Holtsville, NY's Justin Bonsignore secured his second series championship.

The 26-year-old Lutz earned his fourth career Whelen Modified Tour win and first at the historic Thompson Speedway. For the 32-year-old Bonsignore, the title was the capstone on a 2020 season where he finished no worse than fifth at any event.

Six-time champion Doug Coby, who was the only driver who could catch Bonsignore entering the Sunoco World Series, started on the pole and led the first 30 laps. Chelmsford, MA's McKennedy then surged ahead of him entering turn three and paced the field unto the fourth caution flag at lap 73 for Dave Sapienza's spin.

Nearly all the lead lap cars chose to pit for right side tires at that point with Andover, NJ's Calvin Carroll assuming the lead by staying out. Following another yellow on the restart for a Ronnie Wiliams spin, Norwalk, CT's Ron



Submitted photo

Craig Lutz took the modified race on Oct. 11 at Thompson Speedway.

Silk sliced to the lead for a circuit before Bonsignore then blasted to the lead on lap 88.

The championship was then decided on a lap-97 restart. Silk eagerly leapt to the lead while Lutz tried to move around Bonsignore for second entering turn three. The duo wiggled, Kyle Bonsignore checked up, and the accordion effect ended with Coby in the turnfour wall, which put an end to his day. Since the lap wasn't completed, Bonsignore went back to the lead by rule, and Silk was assessed a pass-through penalty for jumping the start.

Lutz successfully overtook Bonsignore on the next green flag and paced the field until caution

number nine. It was McKennedy who got the jump on the lap-138 restart for his second stint at the front. Sapienza pounded the turnone wall a lap later for the 10th and final yellow. Lutz took advantage of his second chance, putting a crossover move on McKennedy out of turn two and wrestling the lead back with six laps to go.

McKennedy had time to take another shot, and with three laps to go, he backed off entering turn three to set up a potential slingshot off turn four. But Silk, who had steadily driven back to third after serving his penalty, got into the back of McKennedy. The contact

THOMPSON | page 14

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DEATH NOTICES

Prater, Robert H. Died: May 4, 2020 Service: Oct. 24 Oak Knoll Cemetery,

Nothe, Albert W. Died: March 31, 2020 Funeral Service Oct. 27 at 1:30 p.m. Lombard Funeral Home, Monson

McClosky, Yvonne M. Died: Oct. 17, 2020 Graveside Service Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. Bethany Cemetery,

Monson

obituaries.

Turley Publications offers two types of

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The Journal Register

OBITUARY POLICY

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Yvonne M. McClosky, 1928-2020

Yvonne McClosky, 92 Monson - Yvonne M. (Yandow) Mc-Closky, 92, passed away Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020.

Yvonne was born Sept. 22, 1928, in Palmer, Mass., to the late Edward and Anna (Paradee) Yandow. She has been a longtime resident of Monson.

Yvonne retired from Zero Manufacturing after many years as a spot welder there. She was a communicant of St Patrick's Church and active at the Monson Senior Center. She was an avid Red Sox fan and enjoyed traveling. She and her husband Joe enjoyed celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary with a family cruise. She was an avid scrabble player and belonged to the Senior Center Pitch club. She enjoyed crocheting beautiful kitchen towels and baking. She really made the most of life and loved the company of family and friends. She especially

adored her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Yvonne was predeceased by her husband Joseph W. McClosky Sr. in 2011, a daughter, Janice A. Griffin, in 2009 and her two sisters, Doris Hope and Alma McDon-

ald. She leaves her Son Joseph W. McClosky Jr. and his wife Amy of Monson; a daughter, Deborah Marvell of Lowell, Mass.: a son in-law, Michael E. Griffin of Hopedale, Mass.; a sister, Anna Maliga of Springfield; eight grandchildren, Michael Griffin of Hendersonville N.C., Marie Doyen and husband Ben of Douglas Mass., Joseph Griffin and wife Tasha of Hopedale Mass., Joshua McClosky and wife Lara of Antonio Texas, Danielle Borozinski of New Boston N.H., Jeremiah McClosky and wife Chella of Belleview



Karissa Ruiter and husband Jeremy of Enfield Conn., and Trevor Marvell of Lowell, and 11 great grandchildren.

Visitation was Lombard Funeral Home in Monson. Friends and family are invited to gather

at Lombard Funeral Home Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020, to form a procession to Bethany Cemetery in Monson for a 1 p.m. graveside

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation in Yvonne's memory to the Bright Focus Foundation 22512 Gateway Center Drive Clarksburg, MD 20871/brightfocus.org.Lombard Funeral Home of Monson has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

Albert Nothe, 67

MONSON - Albert Warren eran, having served Nothe, 67, of Monson, passed away on March 31, 2020, at Soldiers' Home in Holyoke after a long battle with dementia.

Albert was born Nov. 18, 1952, and was the son of Alice (Ross) and the late Gilbert C. Nothe. He is survived by his mother, his brothers Charles and wife Jeanne of Melbourne, Fla., James and wife Lucinda of Deerfield Beach, Fla, and Kenneth of Palmer, as well as five nieces and their families.

in the Army National Guard and the Air Force Reserve for many years. He was a machinist by trade and spent his free time cooking, tinkering with motors, and playing a variety of sports. He loved music all his

life and played in a band in his younger years.

eryone at the Soldiers' Home for in Palmer. Please visit lombardfu-Albert was a proud vet- the care and personal attention neralhome.com for more details.



they gave him, and for nurturing his enjoyment of music throughout his time there.

Visiting hours will be held noon-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, followed by a 1:30 p.m. service in Lombard Funeral Home, 3 Bridge St., Monson,

Mass., 01057. Burial with military honors will follow in Oak His family is grateful to ev- Knoll Cemetery, Thorndike St.,

Robert Prater, 94

PALMER — Robert Harold and Isabelle Elizabeth Prater, 94, passed away on May 4, 2020, from complications of the coronavirus in Danvers, Mass. Robert was married for 69 years to the love of his life, Virginia (Bacon) Prater, who predeceased Bob in February 2019.Robert leaves three children, Kendrick L. Prater(wife Paula), Beverly G. Prater and Barbara L. Stanley and 4 grandchildren, Kendrick L. Prater, Jr., Marra Prater, Robert G. Stanley and Erica V. Stanley and great granddaughter Savannah L. Prater. He also leaves four nieces, Anne Prater, Holly Prater, Maryjane Prater and Susan Bacon. He leaves one nephew, Ronald Bacon.Bob was born in Mansfield Center, Conn., to William Frederick

(Dreissigacker) Prater. He moved to Palmer ,Mass., as a small child. Bob grew up in Palmer and attended Palmer High School, where he played Trombone in the high school band. He continued to

play Trombone in the Brown University band, graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, He returned to Brown for his 50th reunion and joined the band to play his trombone again. Bob enlisted in the Army during World War II. He worked at many corporations, including Monsanto, General Tire and was USCI Medical, where he was Vice President.



Bob was an exceptional father, grandfather and husband. He was beyond kind and caring and when asked, could always be counted on for good, thoughtful advice. Everyone loved Bob for his gentle demeanor, good sense of humor,

and unselfish disposition. His children respected him for his moral fortitude, never stepping beyond the boundaries of what was the right thing to do.He was a gentleman to the end. He is deeply missed.Service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, at Oak Knoll Cemetery in Palmer.

HISTORY MATTERS

Looking back at history in October

By John Grimaldi Guest columnist

Texas was in the middle of its war for independence from Mexico—and--in alarming need of protection for its spread-out settlers from the outlaws roaming its endless frontier. Finally, on Oct. 17, 1835, the government of the new republic stationed a police force -- the Texas Rangers -- to "range and guard the frontier between the Brazos and Trinity Rivers."

At first, the Rangers were ordinary citizens who supplied their own horses, weapons, and had the authority to maintain law and order in the republic even after Texas joined the Union as the 28th state in 1845. In the ensuing years, the Rangers garnered a legendary reputation for tracking down miscreants and, by 1935, they became the official police force of the state. The Rangers still wear the distinctive silver Cinco Peso badge,

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends Mike Cox's "The Texas Rangers: Wearing the Cinco Peso, 1821-1900."

Erie Canal

It took more than two years of plowing and digging to make the 425-mile Erie Canal connect middle America's Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean, by way of New York's Hudson River. The prodigious project was started in August 1823 and completed—ready for commerce--on Oct. 26, 1825. Although it was the pet project Gov. DeWitt Clinton, from New York, the concept of a waterway with such scope was originated by the Founding Fathers to unify America's frontier with the original 13 colonies.

The Erie Canal -- or Clinton's Ditch, as it became known -- helped provide that relationship. As History.com describes it: "Settlers poured into western New York, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Goods were transported at one-tenth the previous fee in less than half the time. Barges of farm produce and raw materials traveled east, as manufactured goods and supplies flowed west."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends Peter L. Bernstein's "Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and the Making of a Great Nation."

Civil rights

The year 1950 was a breakthrough in the Civil Rights Movement; on Oct. 31st, Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in the National Basketball Association for the Washington Capitols. Two other black players were also selected in the draft that year: Chuck Cooper was picked up by the Boston Celtics, and Nat 'Sweetwater" Clifton was chosen by the New York Knicks, but those teams did not start their seasons until November.

Suddenly, after seven games, the U.S. Army drafted Lloyd; by the time he was discharged, the Capitols were out of business, and so he signed with the Syracuse Nationals (later the Philadelphia 76ers), and later played for the Detroit Pistons. He became their scout, assistant coach, and in 1970, Lloyd was elevated to head coach—the first African American in the league in that position.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends Fredrick McKissack's "Black Hoops: The History of African Americans in Basket-

STCC's live online chat feature connects students during COVID-19

SPRINGFIELD - The live chat feature on the Springfield Technical Community College website has been quietly in use for nearly 10 years, but has exploded in popularity since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

STCC Vice President of Student Affairs Darcey Kemp said students as well as the general public are hitting the button on the website called "ChatNOW!" more than ever. They can easily connect with a STCC employee to get information about departments and services including:

· Admissions

· Academic Advising and Transfer Center

- · Health and Wellness Center
- · Student financial services
- · IT help · Library

· General information

"It's a fast and efficient way for our students and members of the community to connect with us. They don't have to wait for a return email or leave a voicemail. If they chat with us during normal business hours (Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), they will

ployee,"

"I think STCC serves as a model for others looking to meet the needs of their students," Kemp said. "Other community colleges have asked us about our experience with ChatNOW! We have received positive feedback from students, and we are proud of the statistics. Students are able to rate their experience and give us feedback. The numbers grow each month."

Between March 6 and April 5, the college recorded 170 engagements with the ChatNOW! tool. The following month, the total number of chats grew to 747. Between Aug. 6 and Sept. 5, the number hit 3,841 chats per month; over 20 times the amount of requests in

STCC restricted access to the campus in mid-March and transitioned to remote and online operations to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmissions. Prior to the start of the pandemic, students often would stop by the Ira Rubenzahl Student Learning Commons (Building 19) on campus to get information.

"Our ChatNOW! feature is be connected with a STCC em- like a virtual Building 19," said

Jasmine Herman, an administrative assistant with the Academic Advising and Transfer Center who responds to ChatNOW! questions. "You can get transferred from office to office within the same chat. The students receive a transcript of their chat, with access to helpful links. ChatNOW! is quicker than walking to the building in person and gives the students everything they need to know in writing."

In addition to students, the live chat feature gets used by people living in the community, those who might be interested in applying to STCC or finding out about events as well as employers and officials from public schools seeking information about the college.

"We flipped from on-campus operations to the virtual space very quickly. We are still providing core services, resources and answering questions for our students. I'm really proud of the high level of service our teams have provided using the ChatNOW! tool," Kemp

Interested in applying to STCC? Visit stcc.edu/apply or call Admissions at 413-755-3333.

COVID-19 testing at HCC extended

COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until Jan. 15.

HCC has been serving as a "Stop the Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help the state and the City of Holyoke reduce the spread of COVID-19. After two previous extensions, testing was set to end on Oct. 31. It will now run through mid-January. Tests are being conducted outside

Free HCC's Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation and administered by Fallon Ambulance in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

> Testing is available six days a week during the following hours: Monday, 7 to 11 a.m.

Tuesday, 2 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, 7 to 11 a.m. Thursday, 2 to 7 p.m. Friday, 7 to 11 a.m.

Saturday, 7 to 11 a.m.

Testing are conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments, and there is no cost for the tests and no referral is required.

Please enter campus from Homestead Avenue and follow the signs to M Lot (adjacent the Bartley Center), where in-car tests are being administered.

Turnaround time for test results is typically four days or fewer.

THOMPSON I from page 13

threw McKennedy off just enough for Lutz to get away for the victory.

Justin Bonsignore finished fourth to officially clinch his second Whelen Modified Tour title in the last three years. His cousin Kyle was right behind him in fifth. Sam Remeau took sixth while Woody Pitkat came

back from a mid-race flat tire to finish seventh. Carroll, Patrick Emerling, and Tyler Rypkema completed the

McKennedy did start the afternoon with a winning by getting the best of Rowley, MA's Chris Perley in the closing laps of the ISMA Supermodified event. McKennedy started third in the 50-lap feature and got to the rear bumper of polesitter Perley following the race's only yellow at lap 4.

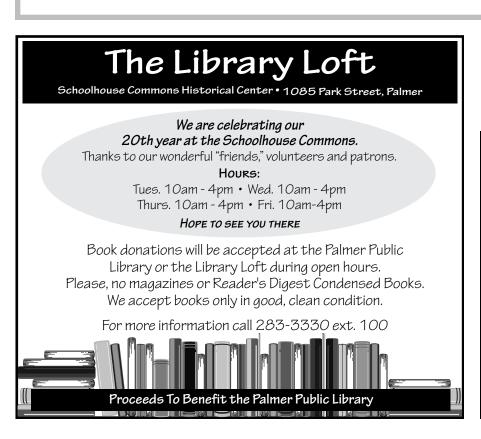
Perley, McKennedy, and Ronnie Williams then ran away from the field. McKennedy got alongside Perly Multiple times on the frontstretch, and the duo even banged wheels entering turn one just past halfway with both hanging on for dear life. With the 10-to-go signal in sight, McKennedy got

his opportunity. The leaders came up on a pair of lapped cars, and as Perley struggled to find a way around them, McKennedy dove to the bottom off turn four. The multitime Modified champion finally completed the pass entering turn one and pulled away over the final 10 circuits to win on Sunoco World Series Weekend for the second

Perley took second with Williams third in his first-ever ISMA Supermodified start. Mike Ordway Jr., Anthony Nocella, Otto Sitterly, Ryan Locke, Daniel Connors, Kyle Edwards, and Dave Danzer completed the top-10.

Pro All Stars Series Super Late Model point leader D.J. Shaw of Center Conway, NH strengthened his bid for a fourth championship by winning the World Series 75. Shaw, who had finished second five times this year without a victory, started outside pole and got the jump when Brandon Barker had trouble at the initial green

Rowley, MA's Eddie MacDonald was right behind and looked below Shaw several times before getting around the outside in lapped traffic on lap 29. Shaw kept MacDonald in his sights, and after a pair of yellows at lap-42, he roared back around him on the outside. Mac-Donald then fell into a three-way battle for second with Derek Ramstrom and Ray Christian III. By the time MacDonald escaped their clutches, Shaw was long gone on his way to the victory.





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Police/Fire

Police Logs

Police logs

The Palmer Police Department has one summons from Oct. 13 to Oct. 20.

The Monson Police Department made two arrests or summons for arrest from Oct. 11 to Oct. 17. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court at a future date and are innocent until proven

Wednesday, Oct. 14

Brianna Rose Loncrini, 19, of 27 Rondeau Street was arrested at 11:14 p.m. on a charge of person under 21 possessing liquor.

Drug Take Back Day, Oct. 23

REGION - After a half-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Drug Take Back Day is back next Saturday, Oct. 23.

Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., community members can drive up to one of the 16 drop-off locations in Hampshire and Franklin counties and the town of Athol and give their unused, unwanted and expired drugs to a law enforcement officer without getting out of their cars.

More than 57,000 pounds have been collected

"Over the years, we have heard many stories from people who were grateful to have a place to finally dispose of their drugs safely. Sometimes they had been saving them for years after a loved one's death, knowing it was not safe to simply throw them away or flush them down the toilet," Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan said.

All prescription and non-prescription, vitamins and non-prescription drugs will be accepted and can remain in their original containers with labels. Liquids, syringes, IV equipment or chemotherapy drugs cannot be accepted.

The drugs will be boxed, sealed, and taken by police and sheriff's officers to Community Eco Power in Agawam for incineration.

Participating communities this year include Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, Goshen Hadley, Northampton, Pelham, Southampton, Williamsburg and Worthington in Hampshire County; Deerfield, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague and Sunderland in Franklin County and Athol in Worcester County.

Ware is not having a special event on Oct. 23, but items can be taken to the Police Station on North Street any day.

Since the DEA established Drug Take Back Day in 2010 to raise awareness of the risk of misuse of unsecured drugs, the NWDA, local law enforcement and other partners have established permanent Drug Boxes throughout the region. Many reached capacity in recent months.

We're thrilled to be part of the team that will allow community members to dispose of their drugs at Take Back 2020," Sullivan said.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to a total of 18 calls from Oct. 13 to Oct. 19.

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 2:15 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Main Street. The department returned to service at 2:22 p.m.

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 3:30 p.m., the department responded to a lockout on Pleasant Street. The department returned to service at 3:42 p.m.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 12:55 p.m., the department responded to a call that was cancelled en route on Boston Road in Wilbraham. The department returned to service at 1:13 p.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, at 3:02 p.m., the department responded to a Landfill Fire on Main Street in Agawam. The department returned to service at 5:00 p.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, at 9:12 p.m., the department responded to a service call on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 9:33 p.m.

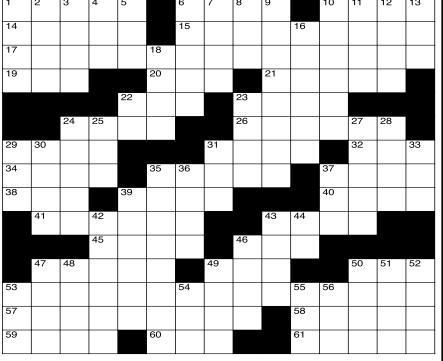
On Friday, Oct. 16, 7:44 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Main Street. The department returned to service 6:18 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 16, at 2:27 p.m., the department responded to a lockout on Breckenridge Street. The department returned to service at 2:53 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 16, at 7:23 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 7:58 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 16, at 8:01 p.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on Wright Street. The department returned to service at 8:21 p.m.

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CLUES ACROSS

 Battered corners: dog-6. __ Mater: one's school 10. National capital 14. Frogs and toads order 15. Bathrooms (French)

17. Praise 19. Witch 20. Consume 21. Pork and lamb are two

22. Rocky peak 23. Women's undergarments 57. One who overindulges 24. From end to end

26. Bed sheets 29. South Sudanese king 31. Dislike immensely 32. Diving seabird

34. Breathe noisily 35. Full of roots 37. Inside 38. Small island in a river

39. Tear into pieces 40. "CSI" actor George

41. Make less dense 43. Derogatory term for a country native 45. Pike and pickerel genus 46. Important in respiration

and other biochemical reactions (abbr.) 47. Belgian city 49. "The Joy Luck Club" author 50. Essence of "Aloha"

53. Suggestions 58. Expression 59. Maize dough 60. Make into leather

61. British noblemen **CLUES DOWN** 1. One of two or more

people or things 2. Small, deerlike water 3. Part of a ladder

4. Unit of work Patriotic women 6. Fragrant essential oil 7. Aggressive, uncouth man 8. One thousandth of an

9. Brisk and cheerful readiness

10. Serving no practical purpose 11. Prevent from going forward

12. Camera part 13. Former CIA 16. Colorless, odorless gas 18. Long division of time 22. Atomic #73

23. Make a bleating sound 24. The kids love him 25. Female condition prior to menstrual period

27. Founder of Sikhism 28. Sudanese swamp 29. He/she can help with

your finances 30. Part of the human body 31. Mortar trough 33. Greek island

35. Change pagination 36. Queens hip hop group 37. Precursor to the EU 39. A way to go on 42. Slender marine fish 43. Georgetown's mascot

44. Farm state 46. Military leader (abbr.) 47. Russian river 48. Teams' best pitchers 49. In a more positive way

50. Long French river 51. Reactive structures in organic chemistry 52. Distinctive practices 53. Male gypsy

54. When you hope to get there 55. Men's fashion accessory 56. Journalist Tarbell

On Friday, Oct. 16, 10:41 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on Main Street. The department returned to service at 10:56 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 16, 11:21 p.m., the department provided medical assistance on North Main Street. The department returned to service 11:47 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, at 5:00 p.m., the department responded to a landfill fire on Main Street in Agawam. The department returned to service at 5:54 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, at 11:58 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident on Bennett Street. The department returned to service at 12:15 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, at 4:49 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Bennett Street. The department returned to service at 11:24 a.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 a.m., the department provided medical assistance in Pleasant Street in Thorndike. The department returned to service at 8:15

On Sunday, Oct. 19, at 10:11 a.m., the department responded to an alarm activation on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 10:44 a.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 19, at 2:08 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide alarm activation on Boston Road in Wilbraham. The department returned to service at 8:03 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 19, at 6:21 p.m., the department provided station coverage in Boston Road in Wilbraham. The department returned to service at 8:03 p.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to eight incidents from Oct. 13 to Oct. 19.

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 3:36 p.m., the department responded to a furnace malfunction on Bourne Street. The department returned to service at 3:55 p.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, at 7:01 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Main Street and Sykes Street. The department returned to service at 9:13 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 16, at 7:43 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Main Street in Thorndike. The department returned to service at 8:02 a.m.

12:55 p.m., the department responded to a fluid spill on returned to service at 1:15 p.m.

sist with Bondi's Island in Agato service at 5:00 p.m.

On Mon-

day, Oct. 19, at

3:04 a.m., the

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department

service at 3:22

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Pleasant Street. The department On Sunday, Oct. 18, at 6:00

On Saturday, Oct. 17, at

a.m., an engine was sent to aswam. The department returned

Street. The department returned to service at 7:21 a.m.

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to four calls from Oct. 13 to Oct. 19.

On Friday, Oct. 16, at 7:44 a.m., the department provided mutual aid to Main Street in Thorndike for an alarm activation. The department returned to service at 8:00 a.m.

On Friday, Oct. 16, at 10:51 p.m., the department provided medical assistance with Belchertown Ambulance on Main Street. The department returned to service at 11:15 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, at 5:30 a.m., Tanker 31 provided mutual aid on Main Street in Agawam, as part of the District 11 task force, in response to the landfill fire. Tanker 31 returned to service at 5:00 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, at 6:30 p.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Ains Manor Road. The department returned dos service at

MONSON

Monson Fire Department responded to 20 EMS calls and four listed calls from Oct. 12 to

On Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 5:29 p.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on McCray Circle. The department returned to service at 5:45 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, at 5:30 p.m., the department provided a smoke investigation in the area of Silva Street. The department returned to service at

On Sunday, Oct. 18., at 5:14 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide alarm activation on East Hill Road. The department returned to service at 5:55 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 18, at 8:40 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide activation on East Hill Road. The department returned to service at 9:30

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In the classroom

They're back!

Students in all Monson grades return to in-school learning





Turley Publication photo by Jonah Snowden Students at Granite Valley School social distancing.

Students successfully social distance in second grade teacher Mike Cuts' classroom.

By Jonah Snowden jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON – Monson Public Schools took a huge step in its reopening phase on Monday,

Oct. 19.

As of now, all schools in the district, which has Granite Valley School, Monson High School and Quarry Hill Community School, include preschoolers, kindergartners, special needs students, and those in grades one through 12.

It's been weeks since a new school year began but unlike some other area school systems, Monson was battling back from high rates on coronavirus and COVID-19 cases in the community. That necessitated a gradual phase-in of students back to in-person learning as opposed to virtual classes.

Superintendent Cheryl A. Clarke said Monday "went really well" and everyone was following pandemic safety guidelines

"The kids were great. They were all wearing their masks and there were no issues," Clarke said.

"The teachers were so happy that they have the kids back in the building as was I."

She also said she enjoyed that the classrooms were once again filled with students, who

were socially distanced. Lunchtime also implemented the sixfeet separation guideline and the MPS students were also given multiple mask breaks throughout the day.

"Once again, kids were great staying six feet apart and following the rules," said Clarke.

"We spent of the time going over all the new procedures with the kids and that really went well. It was a great day."

To limit the number of students occupying each building, MPS has resumed their cohorts, with Cohorts A attending school on Monday and Tuesday, with Cohort B resuming in-school classes on Wednesday and Thursday. The cohorts apply to students in grades one through 12, while preschoolers, kindergartners and high needs students will be at their schools from Monday through Thursday

day in different programs.

On Friday, all students do remote learning.

Clarke said they have established a new guideline for dismissal.

"At Quarry Hill, for example, we have created a Google doc and we had staff members out of the car lines putting in the first initial and last name of each of the students. It was a live document, we had six-foot

X's by the doors and we lined the kids up as their parents were out there. It really worked out well with it."

Along with Quarry Hill, Granite Valley has implemented these guidelines. Monson High currently staggers their dismissals.

"I'm so excited about all the procedures we put in place," Clarke said.

"It was flawless today and we felt like everyone was safe the kids and the staff had certainly had enough time to come up with the procedure the practice so we're really happy that early today."

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Baystate Health offers COVID-19 testing

Special testing continues through Oct. 29

SPRINGFIELD – In an effort to offer additional COVID-19 testing where needed in the community, Baystate Health is collaborating with the commonwealth of Massachusetts to expand COVID-19 testing in the region via the commonwealth's Stop the Spread program.

Expanded testing is now being offered on Wednesday and Thursday at 298 Carew St. in Springfield from 1 to 4 p.m., and continues until Thursday, Oct. 29. Testing is open to anyone from Massachusetts.

An appointment must be scheduled by calling 413-794-0012 only between 5 to 8

p.m. from Monday through Friday. Up to 150 appointments will be scheduled each Wednesday and Thursday.

The event is part of the state's Stop the Spread program, where the commonwealth is launching strategic testing in communities across Massachusetts that have continued to see a higher number of residents testing positive for COVID-19.

The testing is offered at no cost and no physician referral is needed to be tested. Results will be available within 48 hours.

Free masks, a packet of 10 per family, will be handed out.

For more information on Baystate Health services, visit www.baystatehealth. org.

partner on Latinx Studies transfer pathway HOLYOKE/WESTFIELD - Westfield S

HCC, WSU

HOLYOKE/WESTFIELD – Westfield State University and Holyoke Community College have partnered to create an affordable pathway for Latinx Studies students holding an associate degree who want to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees.

Under the transfer agreement, this new 2+2+1 program will enable students who receive an associate degree in Latinx Studies from HCC to seamlessly transfer to Westfield and apply their credits toward the degree requirements for a bachelor of arts in ethnic and gender studies with a double major in Spanish. In their fifth year, students can earn a master of public administration from Westfield State University, for a 2+2+1 track.

"Westfield State is excited to enhance its excellent relationship with Holyoke Community College by providing a bridge between an associate's degree in Latinx Studies and a desirable career," said Roy H. Saigo, Ph.D., interim president of Westfield State University. "This partnership highlights the university's commitment to facilitating accessible and affordable degree options for all individuals."

With a student population that is more than 25 percent Hispanic/Latinx, HCC is a federally recognized Hispanic Serving Institution. The College introduced its Latinx Studies major in fall 2019 and is the only community college in Massachusetts that offers one.

"Holyoke Community College's diversity is one of its greatest strengths," said HCC President Christina Royal, Ph.D. "We are always exploring new pathways through which our students can continue their education toward rewarding careers while becoming more active and engaged citizens. This partnership with Westfield State University provides these opportunities and will also create greater space for dialogue around the historical, social, cultural, political, and economic forces that shape our communities."

HCC's Latinx Studies program grew out of a 2015 Bridging Cultures grant the College received from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant's purpose was to help HCC faculty incorporate Latinx Studies material into existing courses while also creating new ones. The result was courses that became cornerstones of the new major, such as "Latinx Literature," "Latinx Politics," "History of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean," and "Introduction to Latinx Studies."

"It's wonderful to see our faculty develop what began as a grant-funded project into an on-going partnership that will benefit HCC students for years to come," said HCC Dean of Arts and Humanities Kim Hicks.

Requirements for the major include an internship or Latinx civic engagement project as well as electives from a variety of other areas of study, such as anthropology, sociology, communications, history, race and ethnicity and Spanish.

"This is very much an interdisciplinary program that prepares students for transfer to four-year institutions like Westfield State University, and to pursue careers in a range of fields, such community organizing, law and advocacy, city and urban planning, politics and policy, counseling, and international relations," said HCC Latinx Studies and Spanish Professor Raúl Gutiérrez, coordinator of the Latinx Studies program. "We're looking forward to closely working with Westfield State on this new partnership."

The chair of the WSU's Department of Language and Culture Studies, Hugo Viera, Ph.D., said, "Our departmentestá encantado to be participating in this new interdisciplinary program and looks forward to collaborating more closely with HCC as well as WSU faculty in other departments."

As part of the partnership, Westfield State and HCC will also collaborate on a new inter-institutional "Learning Community" course this spring. The course will blend Westfield State Professor Gabriel Aquino's Race and Ethnic Relations course with an HCC Latin American Studies course taught by Gutiérrez.

"We are really excited about the partnership," said Emily Todd, Ph.D., dean of Westfield State University's College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. "Throughout each student's education and experience at both institutions, faculty and staff will collaboratively work to provide mentorship, support, guidance, and careful advising. Research and internship opportunities will enhance students' experiences, with an emphasis on community-based initiatives."



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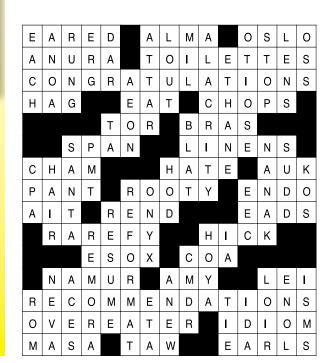
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Dante, a beagle mix, returns to Second Chance Sunday night and Dante resting up after her adventure Monday morning.

Dante's journey for a third chance home

Second Chance dog returns after a month on the run

EAST BROOKFIELD - Oh, the stories she could tell, if only she could talk. Seven-year-old beagle mix, Dante, who underwent surgery for a broken leg after being hit by a car earlier this summer, returned to Second Chance Sunday night after a month on the

"It's like a story out of a children's book where the heroine overcomes her fear through strength and determination to return to the people and place where she first knew love," said Second Chance CEO Sheryl Blancato. "Over the past month, Dante traveled over 15 miles from Hardwick all the way back to East Brookfield after escaping from her foster while recuperating from surgery."

Animal Relocation Director Wendy Hall is thrilled to have Dante back, safe and sound. "We wish she was wearing a tracker. Somehow, she got from Hardwick to East Brookfield. She was seen in Barre around the farms and then nothing for two weeks but apparently, she was making her way back here. She is in pretty good shape. She was finding food someplace on her travels because she actually gained two pounds. She's pretty clean and her leg is very sore, but we expected that."

An East Brookfield resident began seeing Dante around the center of town. They contacted Blancato about a scared, stray dog that no one was helping and asked if Second Chance could

help. "From the description we put two and two together," Blancato said. "We immediately put up a rescue trap to try and help her. When she didn't go in after a day or so, and it appeared she'd moved across the street, we enlisted the help of Missing Dogs Massachusetts to set up a second trap that secured Dan-

Second Chance Shelter Manager Shauna Griffin, who is also veterinarian technician, had repeatedly searched for Dante while the dog was on the lam, was watching the live camera as she entered the trap set up to secure her for a safe return. Griffin was so excited; she admits she was screaming as she alerted others and Dante was quickly brought back to the Second Chance Adoption Center.

Dante got a checkup and x-rays Monday at Second Chance's North Brookfield Community Veterinary Hospital. She'll remain at the adoption center for a respite after her adventure and staff will continue to monitor her.

Second Chance is a nonprofit 501c3 tax-exempt organization that began in 1999 in East Brookfield and relies solely on donations from grants to operate. The organization operates an adoption center in East Brookfield, and Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Springfield, and Worcester. Second Chance helps over 40,000 pets a year through adoption, spay/neuter, veterinary care, community outreach, educational outreach programs, training and a pet food pantry. For more information, visit Second Chance's website at www.secondchanceanimals.org.

Senior Center) circa 1940, but not all. If you

from you. Here are the Scouts Stone has been able to identify:

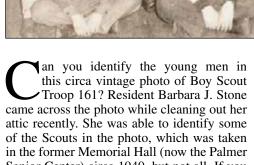
Can you name these 1940s era Scouts?

Back row, from left: Clifton Hobson, (unknown), Albert Roberge, George LeBlanc, Richard Mirler, (unknown), James Waite, Ralph (Junior) Sanford, (unknown), Larry Santucci, Bruce French, Ronald Marcy, (unknown, unknown). Middle row: (unknown, unknown) David Roche, (unknown, unknown, unknown, Eugene Stone, (unknown, unknown, unknown), and Corban Johnson.

Courtesy photo

Front row: Raymond James, (unknown, unknown, (unknown) Fred Herter, and the rest are unknown.

If you can help fill in the missing names, please email your answers to mharrison@tur-



can fill in the blanks, we would love to hear

Lawmakers look to boost unemployment benefits

BOSTON - Today, legislation was announced that would enhance unemployment benefits for 17,000 people in Massachusetts by as much as \$1,800 each. The bill was filed in the Senate by Senator Patricia D. Jehlen, Senate Chair of Labor and Workforce Development, and co-sponsored by Senator Eric P. Lesser, Senate Chair of Economic Development and Emerging Technologies. The bill was filed in the House by Rep. Stephan Hay, House Vice Chair of Labor and Workforce Development, and co-sponsored by Rep. Lindsay N. Sabadosa, Rep. Tram T. Nguyen, and Rep. Paul W. Mark. Thousands of people were left out of the Lost Wages Assistance Grant to extend \$300 weekly payment boosts to people collecting unemployment benefits by a restrictive Trump Administration rule.

In August, the Federal Emergency Management Agency began accepting applications for the Lost Wages Assistance program. The Trump White House included a restriction that banned people receiving less than \$100 a week in benefits from receiving the LWA boost of \$300 a week.

a century pandemic combines with the worst unemployment crisis since the Great Depression," said Sen. Eric Lesser (D-Longmead-"This urgently needed boost will help nearly 17,000 of the most vulnerable people in our Commonwealth to purchase food, pay rent, buy warm clothes, and alleviate unnecessary hardship."

Massachusetts was approved for 6 weeks of LWA compensation for every eligible recipient, covering the weeks ending August 1 to September 5. Numerous states acted to increase weekly benefit amounts, including neighboring RI and NH, so that no recipient of unemployment would be left out of receiving the boost. A majority of the Legislature wrote a letter on September 24 to Secretary Rosalin Acosta to ask the state to implement a similar increase in weekly benefit amounts for Massachusetts recipients.

"This legislation would provide critical dollars to families struggling to make ends meet," said Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville), Senate Chair of Labor and Workforce Development. "With the threat of eviction now back on the table for unemployed families, we should do everything we can to get families the assistance they need to stay in their homes and stay healthy during this pandem-

In discussions with the Legislature, the "We face an urgent moment as a once in administration has indicated that with a small investment of state dollars to increase base benefits retroactively, up to \$31M could be returned to the state from the FEMA program. The Department of Unemployment Assistance has been negotiating with FEMA since the legislators issued their request.

"By making a small adjustment, Massachusetts would be bringing \$31 million into the state when we need it the most, money that will, by and large, go directly into our local economies," said Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa (D-Northampton). "Right now, a shortfall of as little as \$18 is standing in the way of people getting \$1800 in their pockets. This is something the state can and must remedy."

"Massachusetts should fight for every federal dollar it can get to assist people who are struggling with unemployment," said Rep. Tram Nguyen (D-Andover), adding, "Many people have been hit hard by the economic devastation of Covid-19, and raising the assistance for a small group of people to \$100 will quadruple their weekly benefits for 6 weeks. Not only is it significant for the families we're helping, but it also brings money into our state to boost our economic recovery. It's a very simple, yet powerful tool."

The legislation would authorize the Baker-Polito Administration to implement an increase to unemployment compensation for every recipient in Massachusetts not receiving at least \$100 in weekly benefits. This enhancement would be applied retroactively to roughly 17,000 recipients. The bills (SD3084/ HD5355) were assigned to committee on Monday.

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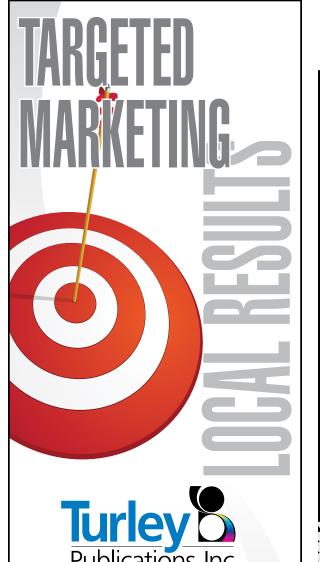
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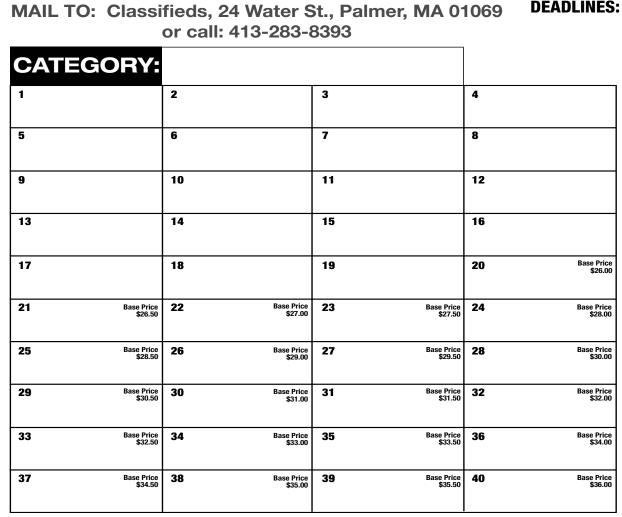
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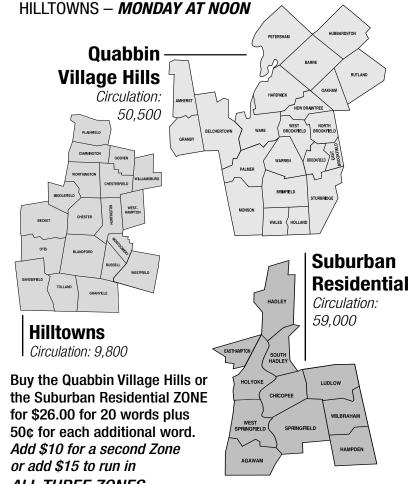
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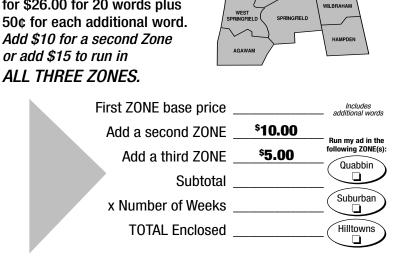
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Public Notices

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION **COMMISSION**

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 7:05 P.M. Remotely. Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with repairing a garage and its foundation, at 37 Lakeside Dr, is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. The Applicant and property owner Margaret McFarland, filed the request.

Login: https://zoom.us/ i/93461517169?pwd=SU-JwR3lZbHAyZzdGT0ZQe-FlwRXVTZz09

Dial: 1.646.558.8656 **Meeting ID:** 934 6151

Password: 878803

Conservation Commission 10/22/2020

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION **COMMISSION**

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 7:20 P.M. Remotely. Under consideration is a Request for a Determination of Applicability to determine if the work associated with the proposed site development of a 7,250 sf building, well, septic system and parking area is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act, and whether the boundaries depicted on the plan are accurate. Property address is 480 Boston Rd West and the applicant and property owner, Antonio Fernandes, filed the request.

Login: https://zoom.us/ j/93461517169?pwd=SU-JwR3lZbHAyZzdGT0ZQe-FlwRXVTZz09

Dial: 1.646.558.8656 Meeting ID: 934 6151

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10/22/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court **Hampden Probate and** Family Court **50 State Street** Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20P1768EA Estate of: Alice K Elderkin Date of Death: 12/25/2019 **CITATION ON** PETITION FOR **FORMAL**

ADJUDICATION

Probate of Will with

Appointment of Personal

Representative has been

filed by: Lyn A Desrochers

of Woonsocket, Rl request-

ing that the Court enter a

formal Decree and Order

and for such other relief as

that: Roy L Elderkin of

Enfield, CT be appointed as

Personal Representative(s)

of said estate to serve

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bond in an unsupervised

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obtain a copy of the Petition

from the Petitioner or at

the Court. You have a right

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a.m. on the return day of

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administration

11/13/2020.

The Petitioner requests

requested in the Petition.

To all interested persons:

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which you must file a writ-

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tion if you object to this pro-

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and objection followed by

an affidavit of objections

within thirty (30) days of the

return date, action may be

taken without further notice

CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: October 09, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin Register of Probate 10/22/2020

FISCAL YEAR 2021 DISTRICT TAX CLASSIFICATION **HEARING**

Palmer, Three Rivers, Bondsville, Thorndike

FY2021

Classification Hearing will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Palmer Town Building located at 4417 Main Street in Palmer. The Prudential Committees and/ or Commissioner's for the Palmer Fire District No.1, Three Rivers Fire District No. 2, Bondsville Fire District No. 3 and Thorndike Fire District No. 4 will meet with the Assessors. This hearing is held to determine whether a uniform tax rate will be maintained for residential, commercial, and industrial properties and whether an open space discount and/ or residential and/or small commercial exemption will be approved for Fiscal Year 2021. Member(s) of the Board of Assessors will attend this meeting.

*Please be aware of Governor Charlie Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L C30 §20 which limits public access. **Please plan according-

BOARD OF ASSESSORS Michael J. Burns, MAA Lawrence M. Jasak Robert W. A. Leroux, MAA

10/22/2020

LEGAL NOTICE MONSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Under the requirements of M.G.L. Chapt. 131, s.40, the Monson Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 7:35 P.M. Remotely. Under consideration is a Request for Amendment to the OOC issued for DEP file #228-0396, MDC landfill consolidation and capping. The request is for additional coal ash excavation beyond the original limits of work. The work is within the 100' buffer. Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance filed the

ZOOM Login: https:// zoom.us/j/93461517169?pwd=SUJwR3lZbHAyZzdG-T0ZQeFlwRXVTZz09

Dial: 1.646.558.8656 **Meeting ID:** 934 6151

Password: 878803 Monson

Conservation Commission 10/22/2020

TOWN OF PALMER TAX CLASSIFICATION **HEARING**

FISCAL YEAR 2021 The Palmer Town Council will hold a tax classification hearing on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:45 **p.m.*** in the Meeting Room located at the Palmer Town

Building, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA.

This hearing is held to determine whether a uniform tax rate will be maintained for residential, commercial and industrial properties and whether an open space discount and/or residential and/ or small commercial exemption will be approved for Fiscal Year 2021. Member(s) of the Board of Assessors will attend this meeting.

*Please be advised that per Governor Charlie Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L C30 §20 which limits public access, please view this meeting via cable television on channel 15 live stream. Questions can be sent via email to nparker@ townofpalmer.com or text 413-388-1115 and answers will be provided in the order in which they were received to the extent possible.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS Michael J. Burns, MAA Lawrence M. Jasak Robert W. A. Leroux, MAA 10/22/2020

> NOTICE TO BIDDERS SLATE ROOF **REPAIRS Unitarian Universalist** Parish of Monson 177 MAIN STREET MONSON,

MASSACHUSETTS 01057 Unitarian

Universalist Parish of Monson, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids

for the Slate Roof Repairs, 177 Main Street, Monson, Massachusetts 01057. The project is being partially funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. All work to be performed in accordance with the documents prepared by Roy S. Brown Architects, 85 Chilson Road, Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095, and meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. State law prohibits discrimination.

The work involves various slate roof repairs, as well as various masonry repairs. Estimated construction cost is seventy thousand dollars (\$ 70,000).

Awarding of this contract is

subject to Affirmative Action

and Equal Opportunity

guidelines.

Digital copies of the drawings and specifications may be obtained by emailing requests to the office of Roy S. Brown Architects at rsba85@yahoo.com after Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

A project walk-thru is Wednesday, November 04, 2020 at 10:00 am. All COVID-19 protocols required at the time of the walk-thru will be enforced. Bids will be accepted from eligible bidders by emailed to the office of Roy S. Brown Architects at rsba85@yahoo.com until 2:00 pm, Wednesday,

November 18, 2020. Bidders shall have completed work similar in material, design, and extent to that indicated for this Project with a record of successful projects in service performance. Bidders shall submit information indicating at least five (5) years experience in slate roof installation. Bidders must also submit information indicating they have performed slate roof repair and/ or replacement on three (3) or more buildings listed in the state or national register of historic places, or listed as a local historic landmark within the last five (5) years

Bids shall be evaluated on the basis of price, previous experience with similar types of construction projects, and references

Mary Gelezunas, President 10/22, 10/29/2020

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Palmer native named to Executive Committee

SPRINGFIELD — Palmer resident Darcey (Fortune) Young has been named to the Executive Committee of the The Children's Study Home. She was added to the education organization's Board of directors in

Young, a digital public relations professional who grew up in Palmer, has been serving on the board's Communications Committee, consulted on everything from fundraising to digital marketing. One of her first projects as a member of the Communications Committee was to produce a promotional video for the non-profit agency. In the video, professionals from Baystate Orthopedic Surgery Center, PeoplesBank, Gomes, Da-Cruz, & Tracy P.C., and Sullivan, Hayes & Quinn explain not only



Darcey (Fortune) Young

the critical impact The Children's Study Home has on youth, but also the community.

'When I joined The Children's Study Home board, I was blown away by the impact the organization has on Springfield and other communities. That impact stretches from the Berkshire hills to the shores of Cape Cod," she said.

The video now appears on the agency's website home page at studyhome.org.

Founded at the end of the Civil War in 1865, The Children's Study Home, based in Springfield, serves all of Western Massachusetts as well as elsewhere in the state. According to its website, The Children's Study Home is dedicated to "partnering with families by providing innovative and educational programs and services that strengthen children and families; empowering them to succeed at home, within the community, and throughout life."The agency serves children, adolescents, and families with special needs. The children the organization serves are often struggling to cope with behavioral, psychiatric, and cognitive issues related to the experiences they have survived. The staff of The Children's Study Home assesses their needs and develops individualized service plans that foster recovery, growth, and wellness.

As a digital public relations analyst for Garvey Communication Associates Inc., Young has developed and implemented numerous public relations campaigns for leading brands. In 2018, she produced the "Innovation Series" which won an award from the Advertising Club of Western Massachusetts. Prior to joining GCAi, she was a field producer, assignment desk editor and production assistant for FOX News and ABC News af-

Young graduated cum laude from Westfield State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in communication, journalism, and public and corporate communication.

Free Turkey Day and Christmas dinners preparation

By Dave and Mary Gravel Guest columnists

Fall is here, the leaves have been gorgeous, the air is becoming more crisp with each passing day and lawn decorations hint that Halloween is just around the corner. Those are our signals to begin planning for the annual Ware Free Holiday Dinners, offered on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Due to COVID-19 and the need to be extra careful with food preparation and delivery, we will not be offering to serve dinners in the hall. All dinners will be delivered safely by our volunteers or may be pick-up at the hall at The United Church of Ware at 49 Church St. All delivery or pickup requests for a Thanksgiving dinner must be made by Monday, Nov. 23. This will allow us time to plan for what we expect will be a record number of meal re-

Anyone requesting a home delivery in Ware, or a take-out, please call the office of The United Church of Ware at 413-967-9981 or Dave and Mary Gravel at 413-967-6554 before Monday, Nov. 23, so we can be sure to place you on the list. For deliveries, please leave us your address and phone number so our delivery people can find you. We will not take a request for a meal on Thanksgiving Day. It'll be just too crazy a time.

you will be asked to line up in our parking lot off Park Street on Thanksgiving Day around noon, inform our take-out coordinators, who will be wearing brightly-colored vests, of your name so your pre-ordered meals can be prepared and ready when you arrive at the sidewalk to the door. They will be directing you from the parking lot to the food pick-up area.

Volunteers will be needed

Potato preparation (cut pota-

Preparation-Stuffing Thanksgiving Eve (Nov. 25, 5:15

Delivery - Thanksgiving Day, beginning at 11:30 a.m.. Call Dave for arrival time. Instructions for safe delivery will be provide to everyone prior to Thanksgiving.

Processing meals to go-Thanksgiving Day, approximately 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Help to coordinate meal pick-up traffic in our parking lot on Thanksgiving Day, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Deliveries will be processed before pick-ups go out the

We expect over 250 meals to go out of our doors as deliveries or pick-ups. All our food is made fresh, and is packed hot from the oven. The meal will consist of turkey and stuffing with homemade turkey gravy, sweet mashed

If arranging for a take-out, butternut squash, smashed red skin potatoes and variety of delicious homemade pies and desserts. We will need volunteers to make home deliveries to the sick, elderly, and homebound, or anyone needing a hot meal on

> This meal is provided free to anyone wanting to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving. There are no income or age requirements. The holiday dinners are entirely supported by generous local Ware area individuals and businesses serving our community. Volunteers hail from Ware and other bordering towns to assist with food preparation, cooking, deliveries, serving and clean-up.

> Here is a list of the items we hope to have donated for the Thanksgiving dinner:

- tions are available upon request.
- 24/ 16 oz. cans of dium is fine

Thanksgiving, only in Ware.

- 18 to 20 turkeys weighing 18 to 23 lbs. each. Our hope is to have the donated turkeys cooked and delivered hot to the church Thanksgiving Day morning by 10 a.m.. But we would gladly accept a donated turkey and can arrange for it to be cooked. Simple cooking instruc-
- 50 to 60 loaves of bread, either stuffing bread or any variety. Our diners rave about our
- chicken broth (or 12 large cans (32 oz.) both fat free and low so-



4 Large size (18" or larger) Reynolds Wrap Alumi-

42 cans of cranberry

10 lbs. onions

Homemade sweet breads to be served as an appe-

Homemade pies and other desserts (this is one of our greatest needs)

Please call Dave at 413-967-6554 to see what is needed before purchasing an item to avoid any duplication.

Bill Cote has again allowed us to adopt more than 110 lbs. of his home grown, pampered and tenderly cared for, sweet super-sized winter squash direct from his garden. Thank you, Bill, for your generosity and loyalty to

We expect to place a reminder in the Ware River News a week

before the dinner in case you forget to call. But please make our job easier by calling early!

Remember that we offer a free meal again on Christmas Day, so if you want to help but cannot make it on Thanksgiving, we sure can use your help on

Dave and Mary Gravel will be organizing both the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and will lead the volunteers on Thanksgiving Day. On Christmas Day, Craig and Jenny Simmons and Jeff Nicholas and Penny Nicholas will again lead all the wonderful volunteers who give up their Christmas morning to serve others.

Happy Holidays to all!!

Dave and Mary Gravel are longtime Ware residents and have been in involved the dinners each year.

Massachusetts Lions launch low vision network

Most of us know someone who is visually impaired due to Macular Degeneration, Glaucoma or complications resulting from Diabetes or Cataracts. Often glasses, surgery, or contact lenses cannot correct the impairment. The person may have some usable vision, but the vision they have lost has significantly impacted their quality of life. Worse yet, their local Optometrist or Ophthalmologist has told them there is nothing they can do for them.

The Massachusetts Lions Low Vision Network (MLL-VN) has established a substantial network of practitioners within our state, who specialize in low vision assessment and treatment. They provide low vision tools and other solutions that can significantly improve an individual's quality of life.

In accordance with their motto: We Serve, Massachusetts Lions are teaming up with this network to truly make a difference in people's lives. The process begins with

a low vision assessment. The Lions have a network of ten eye clinics across Massachusetts including Boston Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy Eye and Vision Center in Worcester, Village Eye Associates in Chelmsford, and seven other conveniently located centers that are uniquely qualified for this task. The Lions will help make an appointment, set up a ride to the appointment if necessary, and can answer any questions that come up.

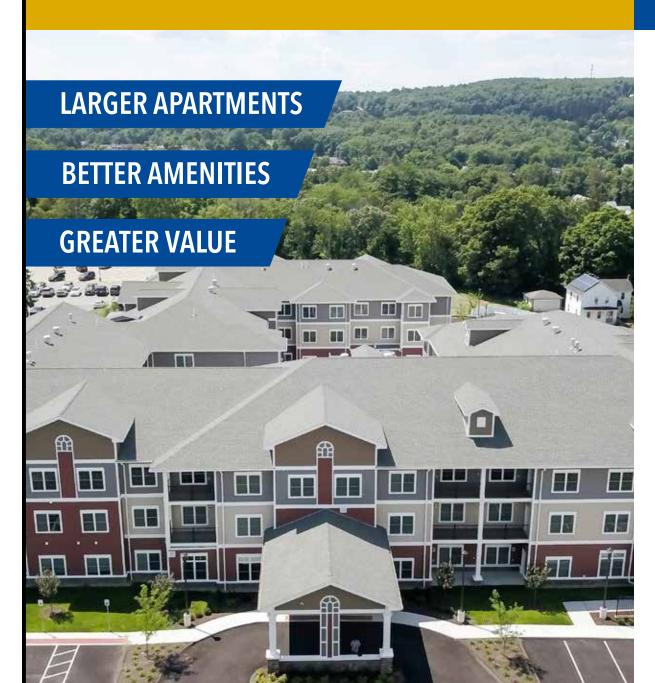
The exam is unique and will lead to recommendations for Low Vision tools that will improve the person's quality of life. Such tools may include hand magnifiers, computer technology, telescopes, binocular systems, desktop video technology that uses CCTV, HD camera and full- page text to speech capability, and many others. In-home rehabilitation therapists can also be scheduled to visit the person's home and help them operate more efficiently and improve their

mobility. If their insurance does not cover these services or equipment, or the person has no insurance, the Lions are there to help as well.

If people would like to take the first step in exploring the low vision support that is available through this program, they either email the Lions at info@lowvisionnetwork.com or fill out the Contact Form on their website: lowvisionnetwork.com. A Lion will respond within one business day to their

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